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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you know what Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution is about?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

ASIA

North Korea has moved a long-range rocket into position for a controversial launch. ➤ PAGE 15

FOCUS

Vietnam's surging demand for its horn is threatening to wipe out the rhinoceros. ➤ PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE

Mike Wallace of the "60 Minutes" has died at 89. ➤ PAGE 19

Healthcare corp. employees down to 450. PAGE 2
24 retail stores cited for tobacco, alcohol sale to minors. PAGE 3

MORE BUSINESS CLOSURES

COP shutting hotel operations

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Coral Ocean Point Resort Club is shutting down its hotel and room operations beginning May 13, 2012, to give way to a $20-million renovation project, attorney Vincent Torres disclosed yesterday.

Torres, chairman of COP owner Suwaso Corp., told *Saipan Tribune* that they will begin their renovation and construction plans once they secure the required government permits.

» Golf course, restaurant will remain open

"However, [the] golf course and one of its restaurants will remain open," Torres said.

He said the first step is to begin the renovation process for all 100

See COP on Page 4

Triple J's Super Fresh Market to close

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Triple J Saipan Inc. said yesterday that its three-year-old Super Fresh Market in Chalan Kanoa will close effective April 30 as increased costs of labor and utilities, among other things, take their toll on virtually all businesses in the CNMI.

Bob Jones, chairman and chief executive officer of Triple J Saipan Inc., said in a statement last night that "after nearly three years of operating this grocery store, the company can no longer support the financial losses due to the continuing economic challenges in the CNMI, especially the increased cost of labor and utilities."

"Super Fresh is a great looking retail store and we have taken pride in providing the local community the freshest produce, deli, bakery, dairy, and Certi-

See MARKET on Page 4

Pension obligation bond initiative, 13 others clear House panels

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A legislative initiative that could pave the way for floating $200 million to $300 million in bonds to pay the government's debt with the NMI Retirement Fund is now ready for House action as early as Thursday.

The House adopted yesterday afternoon the Ways and Means Committee report recommending passage of House Legislative Initiative 17-5. The initiative has been automatically placed on bill calendar for action.

If and when this initiative passes the House and Senate, it will again be placed on the Nov. 6 ballot for voter ratification.

A similar initiative was rejected when it was placed on the ballot in 2010, but its proponents said that that was a result of lack of public education.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) said the next House session could be on Thursday, wherein HLI 17-5 could be acted on.

House minority leader Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), who introduced HLI 17-5 in April 2011, said he will lobby for the initiative's passage on Thursday.

"With the standing committee report recommending its passage getting unanimous approval, I hope this initiative will pass during the next session," Deleon

See PENSION on Page 4

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Local

Healthcare corp. employees down to 450

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

From about 600 employees, staffing at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has dropped to 450 in the wake of resignations, retirements, and emergency workforce cuts enforced by the organization.

Because of this, the corporation's personnel cost is expected to show substantial decline, according to Alvaro Santos, the corporation's chief financial officer. This week's total personnel count of 450 is expected to further decline once the emergency reduction in force is completed.

The corporation shells out $800,000 for wages, salaries, and allotments each pay period. Because many exiting employees are still receiving payments for their vacation and terminal leaves, Santos expects the actual "savings" from personnel cost to be realized by the end of May.

He disclosed that the corporation also opted not to fill several vacancies, further reducing the organization's personnel costs.

The corporation's $38 million supplemental budget submission early this year contained 599 positions, some of which have been vacant due to funding constraints.

Santos said that all personnel got their paychecks last Friday. The money, he said, was sourced from the CHC's collection and revenue and a portion left over from the $1 million that was initially released from the $3 million Marianas Public Land Trust loan.

Santos is scheduled to meet today with Office of Budget and Management officials to submit documents on the $500,000 that will be withdrawn from the MPLT loan this week. "We need to provide justification to OMB how the corporation wants to use the $500,000," he said.

Santos disclosed that there is still $2 million intact from the $3 million MPLT loan, of which $500,000 will be drawn down every two weeks, provided it has justification for accountability purposes.

In justifying the first $500,000 drawdown, Santos recommends releasing at least one month of their personnel's housing allowance. What remains will be used to partially pay for the hospital's debts with vendors.

Employees have been waiting for the release of their housing allowance, which has been delayed for five months now. The allowance is given to employee hired from off-island. Unmarried employees get $600 and those with families get $800. The hospital spends about $1.2 million annually to provide housing perks to over 200 personnel.

Call center eyed for CUC's customer service

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. wants to outsource its customer service and is looking for an experienced and qualified call center that will handle the job.

CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae said yesterday that the call center services are for the agency's departments and operating centers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

There will be a pre-proposal conference on April 19 at CUC's main office. Proposers are required to comply with all local and applicable federal laws.

According to Charles Warren, CUC chief financial officer, their goal is to improve operating efficiencies at CUC while improving customer service levels at all times.

He told *Saipan Tribune* that CUC currently has over 28 individual phone numbers that customers must call to reach the various CUC departments and operating centers.

In addition, he said the current system does not have voice mail capabilities or other ways to capture and track calls.

"CUC would like to implement a system where callers need dial only one number to reach CUC 24 hours a day, seven days a week and be connected to the person/department that can help them. …Depending on CUC's customer information system capability, it would also be desirable for the call center to provide customer balance information and accept credit card payments," he said.

According to Warren, the call center will also be a critical partner with CUC during significant events like hurricanes, system outages, and others.

When asked how much the plan would cost, Warren said that this will be known once the request for proposals are received for the project. He said the cost will be funded by CUC operation.

"Until we see the responses to the RFP, we will not know which, if any employees will be affected, or what the incremental costs will be to implement the system. Once we have that information, we'll be able to make decisions on staffing and funding," added Warren.

Stanley withdraws gross revenue surtax measure

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) withdrew yesterday his local bill proposing an additional 1 percent gross revenue surtax on Saipan.

"I am going to consult further with financial and tax experts, that's why I withdrew my bill," Torres told *Saipan Tribune.*

Torres withdrew his House Local Bill 17-74 during yesterday's session, which was rescheduled twice because of a funeral in the morning wherein many lawmakers attended and a Committee on Education hearing. The session was originally set for 10am, but was moved to 1:30pm and then to 3pm.

He said reintroduction of the local bill will depend on the result of his consultation with financial experts.

If his bill becomes law, the 1 percent gross revenue surtax on Saipan could roughly translate to 10 cents for every $10. The existing top gross revenue tax rate is 5 percent.

A 1-percent surtax would be about a 20-percent increase over the current gross revenue tax rate and could produce some $9.2 million in additional revenue for Saipan, the local bill says. There has been no increase in the gross revenue tax since its inception in 1982. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Annuncio – Arongorong
ANNOUNCEMENT

YOUR COMMENTS ARE MOST WELCOME:

VR FY - 2013 State Plan Goals

Goal 1. Deliver quality and timely services to applicants and consumers.

Goal 2. Serve as an advocate for individuals with disabilities.

Goal 3. Continue to work closely with the Workforce Investment Board to maintain and improve the best features of our workforce development system and to initiate efforts to integrate services for consumers.

Goal 4. Facilitate and ensure the seamless transition of students with disabilities to employment or continued education.

Goal 5. Maintain a comprehensive system of personnel development to ensure adequate qualified rehabilitation personnel.

Goal 6. Continue to update OVR Policies and Procedures.

Margarita R. Olopai-Taitano
OVR Director

Isidro K. Seman
SRC Chairperson

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) in partnership with the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC), will be conducting statewide public forums on **FY 2013 State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services.** YOU are ALL invited and encouraged to please participate in the scheduled public forums. The forums will provide opportunities for public comments on how well services are met and what need to be strengthened in our State Plans. Let us know how best the **Office of Vocational Rehabilitation** shall and should serve people with disabilities residing in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. What barriers exist that currently prevent our people with disabilities from getting or keeping a job? More importantly, recommend solutions to those barriers. **Overall, how can OVR and our local communities work together to prepare, secure, and maintain employment and promote independence for and among eligible people with disabilities?**

Community Forum on VR State Plan FY 2013

TINIAN	SAIPAN	ROTA
April 09, 2012	April 10, 2012	April 11, 2012
Tinian Junior-Senior High School Cafeteria	Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multi- Purpose Center	Aging Office, Sinapalo
Time: 5:30 pm to 7:30pm	Time: 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm	Time: 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: If you require reasonable accommodation (e.g., large print, sign language interpreter) to participate in the public forums, please contact the OVR Council Liaison Elvira Seman at least 2 days before the scheduled forums. Copies of the plans can be accessed at the OVR website or obtain copies at the OVR Main Office at Navy Hill Bldg. N-2.

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A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Marianas Social Commerce Support

Three travel agencies recently teamed up with the **Marianas Visitors Authority** in Korea to increase the sales volume of Northern Marianas tour products using social commerce, one of the top sales tools in the Market.

Lotte JTB, **JaU Tour**, and **Very Good Tour** participated in the trade marketing activity, selling just under 400 pax for packages at **Aqua Resort Club**, **Pacific Islands Club Saipan**, and **Saipan World Resort**. In addition, about 25 percent of the sales were for Tinian.

The promotion also served to give wider exposure to the MVA logo through the agency websites and provide giveaways to consumers.

Last fiscal year, visitors from Korea comprised 31 percent of all visitor arrivals to the Northern Marianas (106,483 visitors). Based on the latest available statistics through January 2012, the visitors from Korea comprise 35 percent of all visitor arrivals so far in FY 2012.

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

24 retail stores cited for tobacco, alcohol sale to minors

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

In a move to address the issue of underage smoking and drinking on Saipan, government agencies held undercover operations that found several stores on Saipan selling tobacco and alcohol products to minors.

The Tobacco Synar Inspections and Alcohol Compliance Checks, conducted on April 6 and 7, resulted in the issuance of citations to 14 tobacco-licensed retail stores for selling tobacco products to minors in the form of a single stick to a pack.

These establishments were the New Times Store, Jhem's Fruit & Vegetable Fresh Fish, Shanghai Pianli Store, Hongkong Store II, and Pretty Market in Garapan; Y.Z.L. Retail Store, Free Town Market, Advance Store, and New World Market II in San Antonio; Guma Taga at the airport; Blue Sky Supermarket in Chalan Piao; Li Lai Gang Market and D.K. Poker in Koblerville; and MRH Gift Shop in Marpi.

A total of 160 stores were covered by the undercover operation.

Ten of 46 alcohol-licensed stores were cited for alcohol sales to minors, with the cashiers involved in the sale arrested by law enforcement officers. These establishments were the U Save Supermarket and Publix Market in Susupe; QQ Store, Sunleader, and Oceans Mart in Garapan; San Roque Market; New World Market II in San Antonio; Payless in Chalan Kanoa; C.Y.C. in Kagman; and San Jose Mart.

Similar undercover operations will also be conducted on Tinian and Rota.

The inspections were in compliance with Public Law 11-75 and cover the undercover purchases of tobacco by youths under the age of 18 and alcohol by those below 21. Volunteer youth and adult inspectors and enforcement officers involved in the inspections and compliance checks received training on the purpose, background, and procedures for the undercover operations.

The undercover operations were a collaborative effort among various agencies, namely the Department of Public Safety; Department of Commerce's Alcohol, Beverage and Tobacco Control Division; Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Public Health Division; and the Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Task Force, which include the Criminal Justice Planning Agency, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Division of Youth Services, along with the trained youth and adult volunteer inspectors.

"These inspections and compliance checks contribute significantly to ensuring that licensed retailers are in compliance with such laws, that our youth are not afforded 'easy' access to tobacco and alcohol, and that we, as a community, are working to improve the safety and health of our young community," said acting DPS Commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro.

Ogumoro thanked all partner agencies, youth and adult volunteers involved in the enforcement of youth accessibility laws. "Let's build a healthier CNMI for both our youth and community," he added.

New law protects hot pepper, medicinal plants

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Medicinal plants and hot pepper plants, which could be a major CNMI export product source, are now protected by law.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed into law House Bill 17-195 to conserve and protect hot pepper and all plant species listed in the "Directory of Traditional Healers and Medical Plants in the CNMI."

The bill is now Public Law 17-71.

Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), author of the bill, said yesterday that the protection of these resources has been taken for granted for too long.

"As a concerned citizen and lawmaker, I took it upon myself to have these preserved. I'm thankful for the governor's signing of this bill into law," he told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

On Tinian alone, he said there have been some individuals uprooting hot pepper plants indiscriminately, making it harder for residents to harvest them.

Birds and chickens also help scatter the seeds of hot pepper, allowing them to grow anywhere these feathered animals scatter them. But still, Conner said there's a need to protect hot pepper and medicinal or herbal plants.

"Hot pepper is becoming a popular export product. Students and residents from the CNMI, when they go to the states, they bring it with them. Or their parents and relatives send them hot pepper to give them a taste of home away from home," the freshman lawmaker said.

The new law gives each senatorial district of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota the authority to enact local laws and regulations to protect hot pepper and medicinal plants. Tinian has the distinction of being the original source of the hottest among pepper species among the islands.

PL 17-71, signed on March 29, amends 1 CMC Section 1402 to add a new subsection 18 and subsection 19.

The new subsection 18 would read: "The conservation and protection of all varieties of hot pepper plants."

Subsection 19 would read, "The conservation and protection of all varieties of culturally-recognized herbal and medicinal plants."

This is one of two House bills that Conner introduced that became law. Conner, who is eyeing a Senate seat in November, also has over 10 local bills that were signed into local laws, mostly appropriations.

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Miah pleads not guilty to cashing checks scam charges

Mohammad Jahangir Miah, the man tagged by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as the mastermind in a scheme of cashing fraudulent CNMI tax refund checks at grocery stores, has pleaded not guilty in federal court.

At Friday's preliminary hearing, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered Miah to be held in custody to answer the charges. She set the jury trial for May 22, 2012, and remanded Miah into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Court-appointed counsel Colin Thompson argued on behalf of Miah. Assistant U.S. attorney Stephen Leon Guerrero appeared for the U.S. government.

FBI agents arrested Miah on March 19. At the time he was on home confinement in connection with his conviction for his involvement in a driver's license scam at the Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Motor Vehicle. He is awaiting sentencing.

According to court papers, the FBI was still conducting follow-up operation on March 19, but Miah frisked the FBI's "confidential source" and found recording wires hidden underneath the "CS" shirt. This prompted the FBI agents to proceed to Miah's house and arrest him on charges of conspiracy to commit bank fraud.

FBI special agent Haejun Park stated in an affidavit that their investigation began after the "CS" voluntarily came forward to report that he/she had been cashing fraudulent CNMI tax refund checks at Miah's instruction. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

DANGEROUS CURVE HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Police officers inspect a Toyota 4Runner that turned turtle after the vehicle's driver reportedly lost control of the brakes while going down Capital Hill shortly before noon yesterday. The driver of the vehicle, Remedio Diaz, and her passenger, Francisco Diaz, were immediately rushed to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. for treatment, according to their grandson Zack Diaz who rushed to the accident site near Coffee Care. The accident remains under investigation.

Wild goat hunting season for Aguigan now open

The Department of Lands and Naturals Resources, Division of Wildlife announced that the wild goat hunting season for Aguigan Island opened yesterday, April 9.

All interested individuals must apply for a hunting license at the DFW office located at the DLNR's main office.

The cost of licenses is $5 for a resident hunting license and $25 for a nonresident hunting license.

Only two types of guns that can be used during the wild goat season: a .22 rifle and .22 Magnum revolver.

DFW said that those who have not submitted their report cards for the previous two hunting seasons will not be issue a hunting license. ***(PR)***

Power plants' fuel costs seen at $25.4M in 6 months

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

During a six-month period, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. projects to incur $25.454 million in fuel costs for its power plants.

From February through July 2012, CUC forecast to take delivery of 8.4 million gallons of fuel for power production. Average gallon per month is 1.4 million with estimated cost of more or less $4.2 million for each month.

The following is the projected fuel cost during the six-month period: February ($4.261 million); March ($4.251 million); April ($4.246 million); May ($4.236 million); June ($4.229 million); and July ($4.229 million).

Effective this month, CUC will collect a higher levelized energy adjustment clause, or LEAC rate, due to the continued rise in fuel prices.

The new rate is $0.32910 per kilowatt-hour—a 7.725 percent increase from the existing LEAC rate of $0.30550 that was approved last January.

According to Charles Warren, CUC chief financial officer, the impact of the new rate to average residential customers using 500 kWh is 7.73 percent, or $11.80 per month. To illustrate, an average customer's billing of $152.75 for January 2012 will become $164.55 in April.

As for its impact on average businesses, Warren said there is really no average sized business account to compute the impact on, because businesses use anywhere from a few hundred kilowatt-hours monthly to hundreds of thousands of kilowatt-hours per month.

CUC earlier disclosed that projects an $8.9 million shortfall this fiscal year, of which $5.9 million is the projected operating loss in the power division alone.

Warren told *Saipan Tribune* that the LEAC rate adjustment this month is not intended to help address this expected shortfall as CUC will rely on its improved operating efficiencies and collections to address any operating losses this fiscal year.

COP

From Page 1

rooms and hotel infrastructure.

"Initially, we planned to start our renovation one room at a time while we still operate the other rooms so that we can continue generating income while renovating," he said.

After much consideration, Torres said they realized that if they continue to open and operate the hotel rooms during construction, they would be putting their customers as well as the employees at high risk of getting injured.

Although it would be better for business to continue operating the hotel rooms during the renovation, Torres said their priority is the safety of customers and employees.

"Accordingly, we decided to shut down our hotel and rooms portion of our resort and reopen them back when all the renovations and constructions are completed," he said.

Torres said the second step is to build 200 new rooms and finally, to build a convention center, adding that the plans and specifications for these phases of the project have already been completed.

The new Suwaso owners had promised to settle the previous owners' debts to the CNMI government of almost $1 million and with other CNMI private and public agencies using an immediate infusion of $7 million.

COP is located on a 735,023 square meter property at Agingan Point, Saipan.

A separate investor group led by Cheong Pui Ng, a former business partner of the late business tycoon Larry Hillblom, wants to invest over $11 million in COP. Ng, president of Pacific Investment and Development Corp., previously offered to invest over $10 million in the hotel but is now promising an additional $1 million to rehabilitate COP.

Last Dec. 12, Ng resubmitted to then Department of Public Lands secretary Oscar M. Babauta its proposal for a 25-year lease with option to lease up to 40 years for the management and operation of COP.

Ng is also president of Bang Plee Construction Limited that built Hillblom's Dalat Hotel and Golf Course in Vietnam in 1994. He owns several businesses on the island.

PENSION

From Page 1

Guerrero said.

He said the focus now is to have the initiative pass the House and Senate, and have it placed on the ballot. The initiative seeks to amend the Constitution to lift restrictions on public borrowing for government operations.

"The other matters such as the amount to be floated are secondary because that will depend on our credit rating, the interest rate and our ability to repay, among other things," he said.

The court gave the CNMI government up to June 15 to come up with a plan to prolong the NMI Retirement Fund's lifespan.

The committee report on the pension obligation initiative was one of the 13 standing committee reports and one conference committee report that the House adopted yesterday afternoon.

The other committee reports adopted include those recommending passage of a House bill that would restrict use of cell phones while driving vehicles, a House bill that would remove mandatory benefits for foreign workers, a Senate bill that requires publication of notice of opportunity to lease public land before or after the termination of public land leases requiring legislative approval, and a House bill requiring private employers to verify the legal work status of CNMI employees.

House members also adopted a conference committee report on a House bill that strengthens penalties for minors consuming alcohol and impose stiffer fines for persons or establishments providing and selling alcohol to minors.

Members also adopted three House resolutions, including Rep. Teresita Santos' (Ind-Rota) House Resolution 17-97 that congratulates Tan Holdings Corp. on its 40th anniversary "and for its remarkable commitment and contributions" to the CNMI.

Also adopted was House Speaker Eli Cabrera's (R-Saipan) HR 17-98, recognizing the achievements of Dr. Tan Siu Lin in business and philanthropy and his contributions to the CNMI.

MARKET

From Page 1

fied Angus Beef. I truly wish this venture could have been successful but the economy of Saipan will not support the many retail grocery stores that are in operation today," Jones said.

Douglas Brennan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said for a businessman as astute as Bob Jones to have to close one of his businesses "speaks volume of what's happening here," referring to the increased cost of doing business in the CNMI.

"This is a very sad day for the Marianas," Brennan told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview last night. "It's a sign of the times."

Brennan, general manager of Microl Corp., said, "If the government doesn't want to work with the business community, we would been endangered specie."

Jones said he wishes to express his sincere gratitude to the Saipan community for its patronage in the last three years.

He also wishes to personally thank the 26 "dedicated employees who strived to provide the best customer service to Super Fresh Market's clients."

Jones said they will try to place as many employees as possible in their other companies or find jobs for them through their human resource department.

Although Super Fresh Market will close its doors on April 30, Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods will continue to provide products to food service clients such as restaurants and hotels, and to retail customers as well.

"I have been doing business in the CNMI for over 45 years and look forward to continuing to serve the Saipan, Tinian, and Rota customers with our other businesses," Jones said.

With over 150 employees in the CNMI, Triple J's current businesses include automotive, wholesale foods, restaurants, housing, real estate holdings, business development, and construction.

Back in April 2009, Triple J opened Super Fresh Market at the former location of Carmen Safeway in Chalan Kanoa.

That was weeks after acquiring majority ownership of the famous Tony Roma's and Capricciosa restaurants in Garapan.

At its opening, Super Fresh stated that its focus would be on a wide selection of the freshest produce and chilled products possible.

At the time, Jones said, "Every challenge creates an opportunity."

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Fund conducts survey to gauge retirees' view on pension cuts

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees has approved the conduct of a survey among pensioners and members to gauge their views on proposed cuts to their benefits as a way to save the pension program.

Acting Fund administrator Esther Ada disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* the board's approval of the survey, which should be sent out shortly to all members of the defined benefit plan or DB plan.

At last week's board meeting, Commonwealth Retirees Association director Oscar Camacho said that members are split on issues about the Fund, specifically the proposed reduction of benefits.

Fund legal counsel Viola Alepuyo also reported that the Fund has difficulty in getting a clear picture of the retirees' opinion as meetings and public hearings for members yielded only a few attendees on three islands.

The Fund has a little over 6,000 retirees and active members on record, Alepuyo said.

Based on a recent court order issued by Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo, the Fund must explain to retirees and members the several scenarios recommended for the reduction of benefits of members. Govendo wants to know by June 29 the retirees' feedback and, if they agree to the cuts, how much they would prefer the cuts to be.

The survey, according to Fund officials, aims to gather the members' input and the results will be submitted to the court.

According to Ada, the survey form consists of two parts: the first part explains the court order issued last month and the recommended percentage of reduction of benefits as presented by Fund actuary Buck Consultants.

The second part asks the respondent if he or she agrees to the proposed cuts and if favorable, what percentage they prefer. The question is answerable by yes or no, according to Ada as she discussed it with the board.

Ada said the survey forms will be sent out to each department for active employees and retirees. They will have 15 days to provide their responses to the Fund. Failure to receive responses on time will be considered a "no" response.

Combination of cuts and cash flow

In order to prolong the life of the pension program, board and Fund officials agreed that implementation of both reduction in payouts and increase in cash flow is the key to the problem.

As of February this year, the estimated value of the Fund's portfolio was at $253 million while it has an accrued unfunded liability of over $900 million. Based on this figures, the program is expected to last less than three years.

Based on the estimated current value of the pension agency's portfolio, the program is only at 28 percent funding level, which means that if it is terminated now, it will not have enough money to pay its entire obligations to members.

A healthy and viable pension plan has to have $800 million in its portfolio.

Fund member sues Fund, acting administrator

A member of the NMI Retirement Fund has sued the Fund and its acting administrator, Esther S. Ada, for their alleged refusal to produce public documents that he requested last month.

Jesus I. Taisague is suing the Fund and Ada for violation of the Open Government Meetings and Records Act for allegedly failing to respond properly and provide the documents for inspection.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to obtain comments from Ada on Friday.

Taisague, through counsel Ramon K. Quichocho, asked the Superior Court to compel the Fund and Ada to make all his requested documents available for inspection within 48 hours of the court's order.

Taisague also wants the court to declare the defendants in violation of his rights under the OGA.

Quichocho asked the court to instruct the defendants or any person under their control to "not transfer, alter, destroy, or otherwise dispose of the public records sought to be inspected and examined" by plaintiff.

Taisague urged the court to make his case a priority over other cases in the trial court and set it for an immediate hearing. The plaintiff demanded court costs and attorney's fees.

According to Quichocho in the complaint, the defendants "are playing games and are wasting precious time and resources to try to hide public documents from Taisague."

Quichocho said that, on March 12, 2012, Taisague, through counsel, sent an OGA request to the Fund for various public records.

The lawyer said the requested public records refer to documents between the Fund and Wilshire Consulting Associates relating to any version of Senate Bill 17-43 and Public Law 17-51.

Quichocho said the other requested public records are documents pertaining to any contract negotiations between the Fund and Wilshire after the repeal of P.L. 17-51 and before the enactment of P.L. 17-51.

Other requested documents include receipts, invoices, purchase orders, checks, and records for any services, goods, made to any vendor in excess of $5,000 per transaction.

Quichocho said that, on March 22, 2012, the Fund, through Ada, responded by offering to make certain "copies" of documents available for inspection on March 23, 2012 at 9am.

The lawyer said that on March 23, Taisague inspected the sanitized "copies" of certain documents. "No original documents or files, however, were provided for inspection," Quichocho said.

Quichocho said that, on March 30, 2012, the Fund, through Ada, responded to Taisague's notice of intent to sue by continuing to refuse to produce public records.

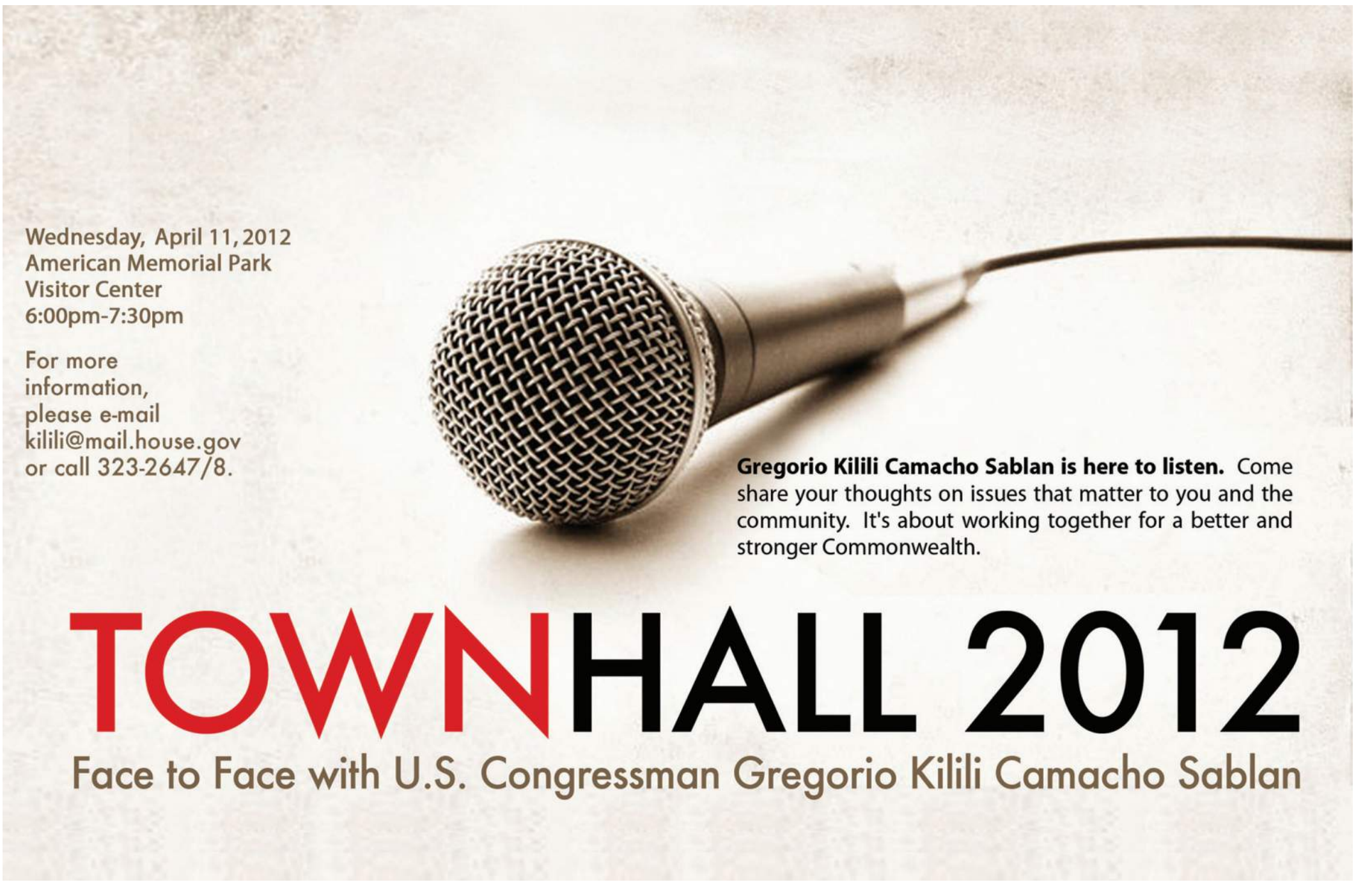
"Because of an approximately $15 million loss, recently, due to their breaches of fiduciary duties, and because there are potentially lots of ugly skeletons being hid[den] in the Fund closet[s], the defendants' determination to unlawfully hide public records and claim that public records are not 'public records' within the scope of the OGA is cancerous," Quichocho said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

USCIS' Gulick to update Chamber on CW issues

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will host a luncheon forum with USCIS regional director David Gulick on Friday, April 20, from 11:30am to 1pm at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Azucena I & II. Gulick will provide Chamber members a status report on the ongoing CNMI CW-1 visa application process, addressing current concerns from CNMI employers.

To expedite all concerns, and present answers to all questions by employers at the forum, the Chamber will gather all questions from members and CNMI employers and provide these questions to Gulick in advance of the Friday luncheon. Forward all questions to the Chamber offices at executive@saipanchamber.com or coordinator@saipanchamber.com. These questions will be forwarded to USCIS immediately to incorporate into the USCIS presentation. There should be additional time at the end of Gulick's presentation for more Q&A.

The CW-1 Immigration forum is $20 for Chamber members and $30 for non-members. Preference will be given to Chamber members, so register as soon as possible. The Chamber will keep a reserve list of non-Chamber registrants and they will be allowed entry if room permits. ***(SCC)***


Wednesday, April 11, 2012
American Memorial Park
Visitor Center
6:00pm-7:30pm
For more information, please e-mail kilili@mail.house.gov or call 323-2647/8.
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan is here to listen. Come share your thoughts on issues that matter to you and the community. It's about working together for a better and stronger Commonwealth.
TOWNHALL 2012
Face to Face with U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

3 cases of lead poisoning uncovered on Tinian

Three lead poisoning cases were recently uncovered on Tinian but the situation was readily resolved with the help of the Tinian Mayor's Office, Department of Public Health, and the Division of Environmental Quality.

In a statement issued yesterday, it was learned that Freddie Hofschneider, director of the Tinian Health Center, had informed the director of Public Health and its medical director on Saipan that three cases of lead poisoning had been identified in one household, a father and two children, in Marpo Heights.

DEQ director Frank Rabauliman and Ray Masga visited Tinian, interviewed the head of the household and conducted testing on the soil and exposures. They discovered that the father was recycling batteries to process the lead contents into fishing sinkers. The children apparently became contaminated through association.

After a multi-agency meeting on Saipan, DEQ deputy director David Rosario visited with Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cru to inform him of the three cases and to help resolve the situation. Along with Tinian resident director of Public Safety Ray Pangelinan, they visited the Marpo Heights residence. The family voluntarily moved to another residence and the house lot was cordoned with appropriate hazard tape. Although DEQ has determined that there is no danger to nearby residences, DEQ will continue to monitor the situation.

"I am pleased that the problem was quickly identified and resolved through the cooperative efforts of the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Commerce," said Dela Cruz.

Jose Kiyoshi, resident head for the Department of Commerce, said that Triple Star Hardware on Tinian is licensed to legally recycle batteries. Kiyoshi encouraged all public, private and commercial entities on Tinian to take their old batteries, of any nature, to Triple Star where they can be properly processed for legal recycling.

"Lead poisoning is a very serious condition," said Dela Cruz, "especially for children. I am pleased that our department heads worked together in a timely fashion to discover not only the source of the problem, but also the solution. My congratulations to each of the agency heads involved. This a classic example of what can happen when department heads from Saipan and Tinian work together on problems of common concern to the People of Tinian and the CNMI." ***(Office of the Tinian Mayor)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Steven Cabrera, deputy director of Public Works-Tinian; Freddie Hofschneider, director of the Tinian Health Center; Mayor Ray Dela Cruz, handing a battery to Mike Lee, assistant manager of Triple Star Hardware; Jose Kiyoshi, resident department head for Tinian Department of Commerce, and Ray Pangelinan, resident department head for the Tinian Department of Public Safety at Triple Star Hardware.

'The Mystery Hotel' is Joe Race's new novel

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Local author Joseph "Joe Mango" Race offers yet another engaging novel titled *The Mystery Hotel*.

Race's latest 184-page novel tells the story of Johnny Ornelas, a computer mogul who escapes the corporate life to settle down on the beautiful island of Saipan where he buys a luxury hotel and embarks on a new life.

But Ornelas' newly acquired dream hotel is haunted by ghosts that make noise and bother customers. To make matters worse, Ornelas discovers reports of people who have gone missing from the hotel.

With all the mystery shrouding the hotel, Ornelas falls for a pretty and ambitious Chinese lawyer, Jan Nan, who is more focused on her job than on a relationship.

The Mystery Hotel also features Race's famous characters, retired Los Angeles Sheriff Tom Parker and his Chamorro warrior best friend Carlos Montana, along with Doberman Zeus, a new and fearless character, taotaomonas, Yakuza, the Chinese Tong, and local bad guys.

Race described *The Mystery Hotel* as having "a little adventure and travel and plenty of romance fiction based on real live events."

Race, who was a policeman for 45 years and served as chief investigator for the CNMI Attorney General's Office, told *Saipan Tribune* via email that his inspiration for his stories "come from everyday life, especially my law enforcement interactions with people, and of course, a strong love and devotion of island life."

Race has already written 11 novels, including a Christmas book, a shrimp cookbook with businessman Anthony Pellegrino, and a children's book.

Race, who is currently working on a story of a young Marine in Vietnam, teaches English at the Northern Marianas College. He lives on Saipan with his wife and three children.

The Mystery Hotel is published by Trafford and costs $14 for paperback copies which can be purchased on Race's website, www.josephrace.com. Both paperbacks and e-copies are also available on Amazon (www.amazon.com) and Barnes & Noble (www.barnesandnoble.com).

Cancer survivors sought for MMAC 'Survivor Dinner'

The 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer committee is inviting all cancer survivors or those currently undergoing cancer treatment to attend the annual survivor dinner held in their honor at the MMAC event.

"Every year the MMAC committee hosts all cancer survivors at the MMAC survivor dinner. This complimentary dinner is held to honor and celebrate their perseverance and determination to continue the fight against this dreadful affliction," said 2012 MMAC overall committee chair Catherine Attao-Toves. "All survivors who register and attend the free dinner will be given a unique medallion and t-shirt commemorating their fight against cancer. In addition, all survivors may bring a guest.

The 2012 MMAC survivor dinner is being sponsored by title sponsor Take Care/FHP. All survivors and those currently undergoing cancer treatment are encouraged to register with MMAC survivor committee chairwoman Nora Sablan. Sablan may be reached at 235-0994-8 or via email at norasablan@gmail.com.

"At the same time, we want to encourage all members of our community who have been directly affected by cancer to register with the Commonwealth Cancer Association so that we may keep our cancer database up to date. Registration with the CCA is voluntary and all information submitted will be kept strictly confidential," said Attao-Toves.

To register with the CCA contact CCA program director Juan L. Babauta at 682-0050 or email jlb6550@yahoo.com.

The 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held on April 27-28 from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. For more information call 285-1828, email attaoc@yahoo.com or visit www.ccamarianas.org.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP12-DOC-062

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 25, 2012 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"CNMI PREMIUM RATE REVIEW PROCESS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS. (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M., MONDAY THRU THURSDAY EXCEPT CNMI HOLIDAYS)

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. JOHN S. BLANCO, CNMI'S RATE REVIEW PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR AT (670) 664-3067 OR E-MAIL TO cnmiratereview@commerce.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE **CLOSE OF BUSINESS, APRIL 12, 2012.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH

/S/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP12-DOC-064

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 30, 2012 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"ECONOMIC ADVISOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A **MANDATORY** PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED ON **APRIL 12, 2012 AT 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME** AT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITED IN WRITING TO MR. MARK RABAULIMAN, ECONOMIC AND LABOR ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM PROJECT COORDINATOR BY FAX TO (670) 664-3067 OR E-MAIL TO ta.elep@commerce.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE **CLOSE OF BUSINESS, APRIL 17, 2012.**

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THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH

/S/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

HEALTH WALK
APRIL 14, 2012
LIVE HEALTHY:
Life Walk
with
PSS
Registration Information:
Saipan: 5:30am to 8:00am – 13 Fisherman Pavilion
Tinian: 6:00am to 8:00am – Tachog'na Beach
Rota: 6:00am to 8:00am – Joaquin M. Ogo Softball Field
– Dr. Rita Hocog Inos RJSHS
Original was designed in 2009 by Winona Blanco-Maratita
12th Grade Tinian High School

Tinian to host Operation Ellipse Charlie

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian Mayor Ray Dela Cruz is flanked by his surprise visitors Thursday at the Tinian Mayor's Office. The advance delegation informed the mayor that the U.S. military will be conducting Ellipse Charlie, a Validation Exercise, on Tinian in September.

Tinian Mayor Ray Dela Cruz was pleasantly last Thursday with a surprise visit by another military organization planning on using the military leased lands on Tinian.

Capt. Paul Blanton, U.S. Army 1/1 Special Forces out of Okinawa, Japan, explained to the mayor that Ellipse Charlie is a Validation Exercise that will incorporate activities on Saipan, Tinian, and Guam. On Tinian, they will be conducting a "Close Quarter Battle" operation, clearing and securing buildings for mainly urban warfare.

This will be a joint Army-Navy exercise, featuring America's Green Berets, Navy Seals and Seabees, "rescuing" hostages from buildings on Tinian's military leased lands. As with the MAG-12 operation, Ellipse Charlie has a buy local policy. Besides food and water, they will be purchasing lots of lumber to construct their practice area.

Ellipse Charlie will be conducted on Sept. 18 – 22. The number of troops involved is not known.

When the mayor asked why they chose Tinian for this operation, the response was, "We have been told Tinian is a military friendly island."

"Yes it is!" beamed the mayor. "We have been waiting a long time for this. We are ready to support you. And don't forget to try your luck at the Dynasty casino!" ***(PR)***

Visa-free Northern Marianas woos Russians at MITT

MVA

Perry Tenorio, managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority, third from right, led the Northern Marianas delegation in welcoming travel reps, media, and potential visitors at the Moscow International Travel and Tourism Exhibition on March 21-24, 2012. Also pictured are MVA director James Mendiola, marketing specialist Tatiana Babauta, and other MITT delegates.

Touting its visa waiver program for Russians, the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam participated in the Moscow International Travel and Tourism Exhibition held on March 21-24, 2012, in Moscow.

The beach resort attractions of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota were touted by the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) to the over 80,000 participants of the event, Russia's largest travel and tourism fair.

Over 800 potential visitors and travel trade professionals networked with the MVA exhibition booth personnel, and an additional 85 attended the Marianas Seminar for an even more detailed look at the destination.

"Drawn by the natural beauty of our islands, the number of Russian visitors visiting Saipan, Tinian, and Rota continues to grow," said MVA Managing Director Perry Tenorio. "Participating in MITT for the first time this year has allowed us to reaffirm existing partnerships we have developed with media and travel agents and to build new relationships. We look forward to welcoming more visitors from all over Russia this year."

The Northern Marianas welcomes Russians without visa restrictions, making the island group an attractive tropical destination in the western Pacific. Last fiscal year, over 5,000 Russians discovered- or rediscovered- the Northern Marianas, an increase in arrivals of 18 percent compared to the previous year. ***(MVA)***

KKMP is latest MMAC title sponsor

»16 teams to compete this year

Radio station KKMP joins the roster of title sponsors for the 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer.

As part of their sponsorship agreement, KKMP will be donating free commercial airtime and in-studio interviews to promote the event set for April 27 to 28 from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Jr. High School field in Chalan Piao.

KKMP will also provide live on-site remote coverage on the night of the event and medical supplies for cancer patient use.

Catherine Attao-Toves, 2012 MMAC overall committee chair, said they are excited to have a new title sponsor on board.

Title sponsors for the 2012 MMAC include Bank of Guam, Delta Air Lines, DFS Saipan, IT&E, Joeten Charitable Foundation, Sorensen Media Group Saipan, and TakeCare/FHP.

Other sponsors are Docomo Pacific, GPPC, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Images Saipan, Ltd., IP&E, Mobil Oil, Saipan Apparel, Saipan Mayor's Office, and Younis Art Studio.

MMAC is the largest signature fundraising activity in the CNMI by the volunteer-led, non-profit organization Commonwealth Cancer Association.

This year, 16 teams will be competing for various awards, including most money raised, most luminaries sold, most team spirit, most laps run, best tent, and best baton. For more information, call 285-1828, email attaoc@yahoo.com or visit www.ccamarianas.org. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy 2nd birthday to VJ, who celebrated his special day on April 4, 2012.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Apr. 10, 2000

$1.6-M earmarked for Saipan Mayor's Office

Saipan lawmakers on Friday approved three appropriation bills amounting to $1.6 million, the biggest chunk of which will be earmarked for the Mayor's Office to cover budget shortfall in its operational costs. The office stands to receive $683,700 under the twin measures sponsored by Rep. Jesus T. Attao once Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio signs them into law. From that amount, $171,700 from the fees collected from bingo, cockfight and batu operations on Saipan will be used to purchase of parts and heavy equipment as well as equipment rental fees for the municipality.

SGMA supports local student groups

As the academic year begins winding down for Spring break, the Saipan Garment Manufacturer's Association (SGMA) is stepping up and doing their part to help two student groups participate in their extracurricular projects. Last week, SGMA acting chair Richard A. Pierce spoke to the Marianas High School Close Up Club and presented a $2,000 check from SGMA to help defray costs of their upcoming visit to Washington, DC. Twenty students from the club will tour the nation's capitol from April 8th to the 22nd and get a first-hand look at the American political machine in action. As part of the Close Up program, the group will meet representatives of the Department of the Interior.

Apr. 10, 2001

Tax amnesty bill hurdles Senate

If it fills government coffers, it must be good. A bill seeking to grant delinquent taxpayers a 90-day grace period to settle their obligations with the government passed the Senate floor last week. The proposed measure is seen to provide additional revenues for the government. However, senators took turns in grilling former Revenue and Taxation Director Rufino Inos for an important mechanism that would clearly define the implementing policies, under which the proposed measure will be based. Senators also made sure the amnesty bill will not run against the Commonwealth's existing tax system.

Rota asks for higher budget

Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona is asking the Tenorio Administration for a higher budget ceiling due to what he said was the need to meet increasing operational expenditures. "For the last three years, our budget level has become stagnant while costs of operation continue to escalate. Employees continue to receive their annual five percent within grade increase," said Mr. Manglona. He pointed out that a limited number of employees have been classified or promoted while a large number are awaiting reclassification and promotion due to the amount of responsibility and level of work performed.

Apr. 10, 2002

NMI to receive $1.385M in federal funds

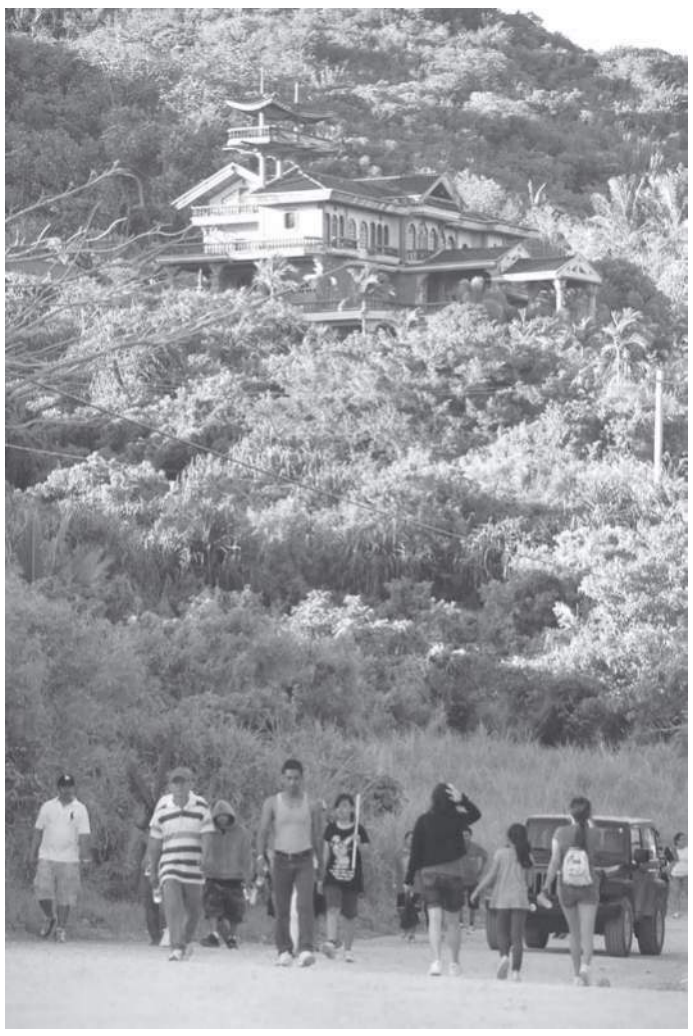
The CNMI Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities will receive a preliminary federal grant award of about $1.385 million based on the agency's fiscal year 2001 application for a Real Choice System change grant. The good news was relayed to Council Executive Director Thomas J. Camacho in an April 8 letter by Thomas Hamilton, director of the Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group-Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Center for Medicaid and State Operations (CMS). Base on a panel of independent reviewers, the Council's application was rated one of the competitively ranked applications. Qualified applicants are those that submitted a grant application last August 2001.

Ayuda's medical mission program gets funding

The Ayuda Foundation's Micronesia Medical Missions was awarded $50,000 for each of the next three years by the Larry Hillblom Foundation. The award was made to support the work being done by the Ayuda Foundation to improve medical care for the people of Micronesia. The Ayuda Foundation, run by co-executive directors Shannon Murphy and Carlotta Leon Guerrero, has been in existence for six years. It was only in 2001, however, that it began full time operations. The group sends medical professionals to provide services free of charge from Guam to other islands in Micronesia. It also conducts public health campaigns such as Reach Out and Read and Island Girl Power on Guam, and secures donated medical equipment and medicine for island clinics and hospitals.

Good Friday

Photos by CLARISSA V. DAVID



With a castle-like house as backdrop, Good Friday trekkers are seen making their way to the top of Mt. Tapochao.

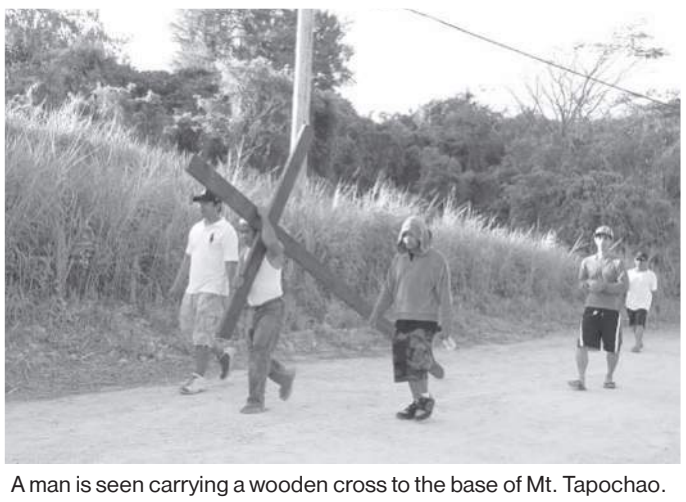
Good Friday pilgrims rest by the foot of the Christ's statue at the Mt. Tapochao summit.

Trekkers take a break at the American Red Cross - NMI Chapter booth where they availed of water and fresh fruits.

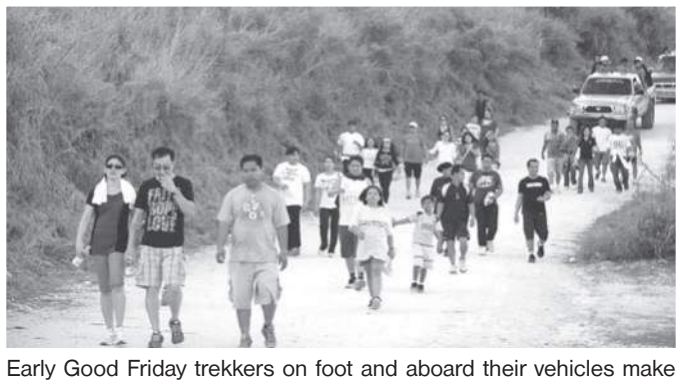
Some of the Catholic faithful gather at the food of the Christ's statue on Mt. Tapochao.

United Filipino Organization officers and members smile for the camera at their booth where they served boiled eggs, sandwiches, congee, water, and coffee.

Members of the Catholic faithful and other Christian communities gather at the top of Mt. Tapochao to wait for the raising of the wooden cross, symbolizing Christ's death to save mankind.



A man is seen carrying a wooden cross to the base of Mt. Tapochao.



Early Good Friday trekkers on foot and aboard their vehicles make their way back after reaching the peak of Mt. Tapochao.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Little to celebrate after pope's visit

The following editorial appeared in the Miami Herald *on Friday, April 6.*

As Christians commemorate Good Friday leading up to Easter and Jews prepare to celebrate Passover, the story of the Exodus, when the ancient Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt, there's a communist island in the Caribbean where its people remain enslaved and few days can be called "good."

Barely a week after Pope Benedict XVI left Cuba, the repression continues. His short visit did nothing to give Cubans hope for a better future. The Vatican will point to the Cuban government allowing its people to not work this Good Friday as a sign that change is coming, if slowly. Yet the pope's visit was one missed opportunity after another to speak up for Cubans' basic human rights.

The pope had no time in his busy schedule to meet with the Ladies in White, the mothers, daughters and relatives of those imprisoned for peacefully protesting the Cuban dictatorship. Yet these women have been loyal Catholics, going to mass every Sunday for years. They have been spat on, punched out and knocked down by government-approved mobs. But the pope had no time for them.

In Santiago, there was another powerful missed opportunity when Andres Carrion Alvarez ran through the crowd during the outdoor church service yelling, "Down with communism!" He was beaten and carted away—but not before getting pummeled on the head with a cot used as a weapon by a Cuban Red Cross worker. From the pope and the Cuban church leadership there was silence. Mr. Carrion, meanwhile, hasn't been seen since.

In Havana, Alan Gross, an American contractor working for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), will "celebrate" Passover in prison. He was arrested in December 2009. His crime? Bringing satellite equipment to Cuba's tiny Jewish community. For this, he is serving a 15-year prison sentence.

Again, the pope said nothing, at least publicly, to ask for Mr. Gross' release or to defend the fundamental right of all Cubans to be able to reach out and communicate with the world.

Another pope, John Paul II, asked Cuba to open up to the world and for the world to open up to Cuba some 14 years ago. Since then, Cubans have experienced some small successes—Christmas is now celebrated openly, for instance, in a nation that Fidel Castro had proclaimed to be atheists and remained officially so for decades. But the crackdowns on those who speak out against the regime's abuses continue to this day.

In preparation for Pope Benedict's visit, the Cuban regime detained hundreds of dissidents and shut them out of participating in any of the religious observances. They redirected dissidents' phone lines to state security and claimed a technical glitch cut off Internet access island-wide. Worse still, Cuban Catholic leaders, led by Cardinal Jaime Ortega, turned over several Cubans—who had gone into a Havana church to seek the pope's attention before his visit—to state security. Disgraceful.

Since the pope's departure, the beatings and detentions by Cuban authorities continue. Cuban authorities have locked up at least two dozen dissidents, including Jose Daniel Ferrer Garcia, who was among the 75 detained during Cuba's Black Spring crackdown of dissidents in 2003, and his wife, Belkis Cantillo. Their small children are now in the care of an aging relative. So much for progress.

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Good morning *Homo resurrectus*

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

One of my favorite cartoons is an evolution lineup from the caveman to the *homo modernicus* with the last turned back facing *sapiens, erectus* and *habilis,* saying, "Let's go back, we f***ed up!" A rear-view mirror perspective.

The fact is, there is no turning back, in spite of what some want us to do to return to an imagined "golden age," or to attempt to redo it all over again, by gum! Thus journeys are often riddled with guilt and despair given the impossibility of both enterprises. That, or sit around nursing wounds and caressing scars, waiting for a Messiah to deliver us from our situation. In spite of having since democratized the messianic role, converting it to a facilitative function rather than an up-front gung-ho *Kristo Rai* general, we still have a slew of pretenders.

Perhaps, it is time to banish the messianic role from human consciousness.

Much inventory of human consciousness, particularly its role in education, points not on revelatory external intrusion as it is on the richness of internal awareness. But we do not pay much attention to our internal states of being. On the other hand, the externalities of the lingering messianic role has been co-opted as autocratic teachers at the front of the podium, high priced experts in corporate boardrooms, stuffy mega-church haranguers, and huffy politicians on the public budget.

Committed pedagogues continue to comb the depths of uncharted mystery to elucidate on consciousness. One format I follow is the O-R-I-D mindscape, an Objective-Reflective-Interpretive-Decisional perspective used by the Institute of Cultural Affairs. Borrowed from the museum observation that classical (sensual), impressionistic (emotive), abstract (cognitive), and social (active) arts are varied layers of consciousness, the method is used extensively in shifting paradigms in local communities around the world.

The human factor is our ability to relate, a true occurrence in every clime and culture, experiencing *objective* reality and creating images of sense objects from it, *reflecting* on the data and responding with gradations of preferences, *interpreting* objective data and reflected feelings into social symbols of words and numbers in dialogue with other symbol-making creatures, and finally *deciding* on a course of action in consensus with those who decide to share similar directions, if not ethics.

Our use began in an inner-city sociological construct, the Fifth City on the Westside of Chicago, to a limestone rock outcropping in Sudtonggan, Mactan, Philippines, a *metis* village in Vogar, Manitoba, Canada, on the shades of a Raj in Maliwada, Maharashtra, India, the Hakka *nouveau riche* of Sai Kung, Kowloon, Hong Kong, a Blue Mountain Jamaican parish of Woburn Lawn, a *vino tinto* drenched Basque settlement of Sol de Septiembre in Chile, a cocoa forest barrio *Caño Negro* in Venezuela, interrupted by a malaria-hepatitis bout by tropical Lagos lagoon, Nigeria, then continuing with coral reef folks of Majuro in the Marshall Islands, and finally, the *rambutan* gathering *sarongs* of Sungai Lui, Malaysia in '82, to name a few places.

We used the same methodology to orient U.S. Peace Corp volunteers, business seminars and strategies in the Philippines and Washington, D.C., in the workforce development premises of WorkHawaii, and most recently, in PSS-SVES classroom pedagogy. We now use it as an overlay to map the English language while we stretch the *Zhongguoren* familiarity with oral forms in *Dong Bei,* Shenyang, Liaoning, China.

A school professor confesses that he can read and write, passes English standard tests after 20 years of study, but could not speak English, a deficiency in hearing skill and speaking practice. We edited his scholarly article for journal publication and it was obvious that he mastered the translated technical English terms of his discipline but is challenged to communicate tense and sense, let alone, meaning.

A mentor, Gene Marshall of the Institute of Realistic Living, a guru of no insignificant reputation, in a work-in-progress, tackles human awareness iteration with five layers of consciousness: (1) cell-based, (2) image-using, (3) emotion-based, (4) symbol-using, and (5) wonder-based.

We assume that each of us move from the sense-filled cell-based consciousness of existence itself, proceed to accommodate the animal kingdom as capable image-users, acknowledge social psychology of emotion-based personae, activate symbol-making Science, Arts and Humanities, and finally, create the wonder metaphors of covenanted communities.

To put flesh to what we constantly refer to as the *new human,* its transcendent agility, immanent inescapability, and transparent ability, we temporarily coined for the season *Homo resurrectus* (we lay it to rest as quickly as we gave it birth), but s/he is nothing more than *Homo sapiens* owning up to human consciousness, acknowledging its limits but firing up the dragon fireworks of its possibilities!

Wonder what would happen if Capital Hill expands its layers of consciousness a bit!

We continue to write our reflections toward defining the *new human*, demonstrating what we mean through our own historical grounding in the *humanum novo* of the new world.

Care to join us?

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Malate' kontra tomtum

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Guaha 'nai ta huñgog i mañainata man-adiñgan pot malate yan tomtum. Guaha na malate' naturat, guaha lokue' malate' leblu, lau taya'mas paire ke i tomtum.

Megai hu lie' man-malate' man-paire edukasion niha. Todu matuñgu' i offisiun niha ya ti u lache gi hafa machocho'gue. Yangin kabesanten tropan empleau, pues unu seguru: Tai edukasion 'sino ineyag taimanu masatba probleman empleau ni guaha diniskontentu giya siha.

Guse'ña ha esphiha taimanu para u manda i sichuasion pot para una' fan manuñgu todu empleau na i otdeña i dinanche ya debi umatatiye. Lagse' yan libre guine na patte. Lau i probleman diniskontentu ti ha satba. I empleau ni mañega sensian dignoña mas mala'et sa' ti masatba ni unabes problemaña. Lastima sa' magahet na malate' i ma'gas.

I temtum na ma'gas ensegidas ha agañg i ma'aminasa na empleau ya ha adiñgane. Ha sedi i empleau sumañgan dibuenamente hafa problemaña. Umekuñgog dispues hafa i magasña sentimentoña ya uma'ayuda satbasion. Magof i prohimu sa' manae' tatte ni dignoña ya ha tutuhon talu man-ayuda animosu para minauleg todus. Estague' i temtum na ma'gas.

Hu tuñgu' na rektuyu' na magas piot gi depattamentun tanu'. Rason? Taya' kampu para babarias sa' debi u ya hululu' i integridad kada empleau. Dispues 'an hu choneg i empleau, unu ha' intensionhu: i para bai'lie' na ha chogue nina' sinaña ya ha fanue'yu' ni mas mauleg na chicho'ña. Hu soyu' na u fan eskuela 'an pueñge gi NMC sa' ti apmam yan pagu siempre i mas tagpapa' na asuntu i debi empleau u gai galun AA degree. Estague' preparasion gi ineyag propiu asuntu siha pot para proteksion niha kumu empleau, gaige 'sino taigueyu'.

Memegaiñ man-mauleg na manfafacho'chu'. Guaha ha' lokue' kulan hayun niha machansa che'chu' babarias 'nai megaiña pagu sinetsut. Guaha manchatgun lau fotte lokue' baban higadun niha. I tautau ni ti ha preparague' siempre gaige gi uttimun i fila. Hagu solamismu siña ennau tumulaika. Yangin ti umeyag hau pagu ginen leksion siha gi kolehu, pues esta giya hagu dispues.

Lau un' dia ya manae' hau responsablidat kabesanten un' grupon empleau, cha'mu malelefa nu i dignon kada unu. Na geftau hau numae' siha ni onru ya in'fan hamyu man-mamokat mona parehu. Onra kumu tautau sa' parehu hamyu na dos.

■■■

Kuttura yan tradision

Sessu mafa' fagas pachut tanu' yan kuttura 'sino tradision. Dinanche i palabra yangin antigu na komunidan natibu ta sasañgan. Mauleg ta aberigua relasion tanu' yan kuttura.

I tanu' natibu antes 'nai ma-establese kutturan gualu'. Ginen i tanu' i natibu 'nai ha prebeniniye mantension familia ginen tinanomña yan pinegsaiña siha.

Taya' antes cho'chu' 'nai siña ma-emplea i natibu. Pues fuetsau u gualu' para u pega sentadan familia gi lamasan chumochu.

I tasi lokue' sumetbe gi mantension familia. Ayu mina' i natibu (Chamorro) pumepeska esta kiñientos miyas huyuñg para u kone' i dañkulu na guihan. Gi todu atmos banda 'nai ha sosoda' i natibu prebension familia.

Ginen direktamiente na usun tanu' gi gualu' 'nai mau'udai i kutturan natibu, kontodu i tasi. Faisen maisa hau mismu, kuantu pot sientu gi tautauta man-guagualu' 'sino man-pepeska na tiempu? Kau propiu para ta sige ha' fuma' sengne i tanu' yan kuttura? Na ti magahet na maliñgu esta i sustansian kutturan natibu ni ma-establese gi hechuran fangualu'an? Kau propiu na para ta kontinua umusa i lache pot para usun kombiniente i tanu' yan kuttura?

■■■

Dispues de humanau i administrasion i Navy guine, megai mana' fan para gi offisiun niha. Fuetsau, ta bira hit ta'lu tatte gi fangualu'an. I sisienta siha na sakan uttimu ta praktika ta'lu un' biahe hafa magahet na kuttura yan tradision natibu. Dispues de ennau, maliñgu ta'lu i ta fafama pot impottansian tanu yan i mafnas na fafayen natibu--fangualu'an.

Man-nahalom hit dispues tautau para hutnaleros gualu'. Ya gi uttimu biahe 'nai hu rikonose, hu soda' i Chinu, Koreanu yan Tagalu gi fangualu'an siha. Siha pagu prumaktitika i hagas kutturan natibu gi gualu' mientras ta dedeka' i computer gi offisina. Dinanche este mohon?

■■■

Yangin para tafa' frente i tanu' kumu satbasion kutturan natibu, fatsu ennau na puntu piot ya ti sumasaunau hau gumualu'. Siña ha' tafa' eskusu dinaña' familia gi hagas lanchu, lau man-guagualu i familia fuerake lugat dinaña para fina' tininu yan gupot?

Guaha minapotña i para ta tanom maseha sune, mendioka, kamute yan 'nos kuantos tinanom choda para ta sosoda' mona? Mapot mamogsai para mantension familia tat kumu manog fresku, babue, ñgañga' yan chiba?

Muñga chathinassu yangin i ineppemu "huñgan" sa' bula lokue' saki na tiempu. Hombre, tanum para metkau, hagu mismu yan otru dueñu. Dispues, 'an mattu lokue' mattiempu; sumen na' disganau ya hu hoñgge sa' hu chage antes.

Ai 'nai esta listu i chetdaghu siha para u fan mahoñggu', pinalopu' Saipan un' pagyun choda. Todu man-tinemba. Taya' sobla fuerake tinanom aguon gi papa' tanu' tat kumu kamute, sune, mendioka yan dagu.

Letters to the Editor

Discriminatory

This is in response to Diego Camacho Blanco's letter to the editor (Questions that need answers, *Saipan Tribune*, April 6, 2012), about Mr. Efrain F. Camacho reasons to abolish Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution. After consulting with our elders and the people we know, we have come to the conclusion that our land alienation law is unfair to our society as a whole. Not only that Article 12 discriminate other ethnicities in our island chain, but it hinders progress within our society and destroys the Northern Mariana descents' fundamental well-being. We continue to call ourselves United States citizens and at the same time we turn a blind eye when it comes to extending our fellow Americans their fundamental right to own property in the CNMI.

We have no knowledge of what Mr. Camacho intends, but we know for a fact that our land alienation law should be abolished for the sake of our future generations. Several of our siblings sold their properties for a thousand dollars per 1,000 square meters and it was their choice to do so. We have choices in our lives and our government should not be making choices for each one of us. It is undemocratic for our government to continue to dictate who owns private land in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Many of us serve in the U.S. Armed Forces, so people like you can enjoy your fundamental rights protected by the U.S. Constitution. It is only fair for all U.S. citizens to be afforded the opportunity to own private land throughout our island chain. Mr. Blanco, it is unfair for you to accuse us and Mr. Efrain F. Camacho that we are supporting the abolishment of our land alienation law for our financial gain. Most of us are landless in the CNMI and we have no financial gain from repealing Article 12. The reason behind our support for abolishing our land alienation law is the discriminatory nature of such law. For us to allow Article 12 to continue will preserve the status quo within our society and our future generations can't afford such predicament.

Segundo Castro
San Jose Village, Tinian

The cycle of domestic violence

I just had a concern about a story I read tonight about the man who hit his wife with a meat cleaver. Someone who is familiar with the subject of domestic violence needs to get his wife into counseling while he is in jail. The more apologetic an abused spouse is indicates the severity of the danger she and her children are in. A social worker should interview the children separately, without the mother to make sure they aren't being abused. There was a child here in North Carolina who was killed by a stepmother. The mistake made by DSS was that they talked to the child in front of the stepmother. I'm sure you heard of the Zarah Baker story. I am really worried about the lady there in Saipan and her daughters. I hope someone will help her understand the cycle of domestic violence. I wish she could understand that she needs to take her daughters and go into hiding while he is in jail. I'll be praying for her.

Margene Morrison
Supply, NC

ISLAND VIEWS

Editor's Note: The following essay and mini-essays are written by the students of Mrs. G.C. Borja-Robinson's writing classes at the Northern Marianas College. The views expressed are solely those of the students.

Dropping out of college

By LYDEE PANGELINAN

Students today drop out of college for various reasons. This happens even when many employers look for people who finish at least two years of college. So why do students drop out of college? I believe there are three reasons. One, they cannot afford the tuition. Two, they prefer to work. Three, they fail a course(s).

One reason that a student drops out of college is that he or she does not have enough money to pay tuition. Often a family cannot pay college tuition for a son or daughter because the parent(s) earns minimum wages. Or the parents can only afford to pay the tuition of one family member. Although a public college is relatively inexpensive, many students cannot afford the tuition. Thus they cannot study.

Another reason for a student to drop out of college is a job. When a student gets a good job, he or she prefers to keep the job instead of attending college. That student may have been working at a job while going to college too. He or she finds out that working is preferable to taking classes. It is difficult for him or her to leave the job due to the salary the job provides. Such a student finds out that there is a better future to working instead of studying.

Another reason a student does not finish college is due to academic failure. Sometimes a student has problems with some subjects, especially mathematics or English. So he or she ends up failing the course(s). e or she has the opportunity to take the course again but chooses not to. Often it is more preferable to work in an easy job where one does not need to think.

Students usually drop out of college for these reasons: lack of money, a good job, and academic failure. I hope students do not drop out of college. Education is an investment for your future.

The importance of exercise

By HO JIN WOO

What kind of exercise do you like to do? I sometimes jog beside the beach with my family, because exercise is important for our health. Everyone wants to live a healthy life. Three years ago, I didn't think we needed to exercise to have good health. I was young and had a lot of energy. Later I realized that as we get older we need to exercise to stay healthy and have full energy. So I decided to start exercising to keep my body weight and stay healthy. Now I spend three hours a week jogging with my family. My wife does not like to jog, but I bring her to the beach to exercise. I encourage my family to continue to exercise so that we will be healthy and live longer.

Swimming

By DONG MEI GU

Do you like to swim? Many people like it. I believe swimming is the best exercise to improve your health. For men, swimming strengthens the muscles of the whole body. It helps them stay stronger and more flexible. For women who want to keep fit, swimming is a good way to lose weight.

There are many styles of swimming. They are: butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, and freestyle. I think the most beautiful is the butterfly stroke. However,it is also the most difficult to master. Freestyle is the fastest swim stroke.The breastroke looks like a frog. The backstroke is the most comfortable for me. When I feel tired, it is so fantastic to just be able to float on the water surface. I like to swim. It provides great benefits to our health.

Walking

By IN JU AHN

Do you like exercise? What kind of exercise do you like? For me, I prefer to walk. Walking is easy and simple compared to other forms of exercise. Some people may prefer jogging, but jogging is a little hard for me. When I lived in Korea, I used to walk for one and a half hours everyday from Monday to Friday. I did not use public transportation so that I could exercise. Walking everyday helped me maintain my weight and good health. When I took a vacation from my job, I stopped walking. I noticed that I easily gained weight during my vacation. I also noticed that I was too uncomfortable to do any physical activity, even walking. So if you want to maintain your weight and stay healthy, why don't you try walking? Walking is a very easy way to keep your body weight. If you have any spare time, try it now! Walking is an easy exercise for anyone.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°

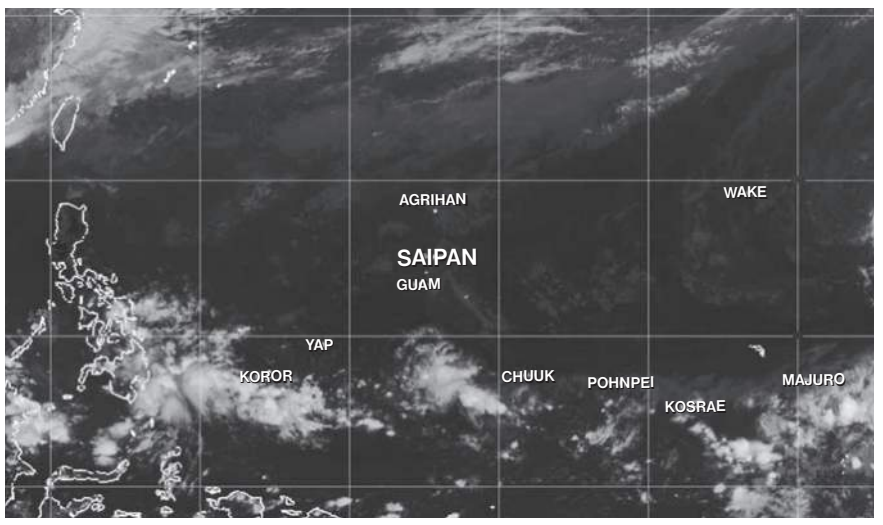
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Yap	Paretly Cloudy	▲90	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲91	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼59
Beijing	Cloudy	▲73	▼49
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲77	▼71
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼69
London	Showers	▲54	▼41
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲73	▼51
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲92	▼80
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼48
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼66
New York	Windy	▲65	▼45
Osaka	Cloudy	▲69	▼56
Paris	Rain	▲56	▼43
Pusan	Showers	▲64	▼55
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲67	▼53
Salem	Showers	▲65	▼47
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼53
Seoul	Rain	▲64	▼49
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲65	▼54
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼48

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from 25N162E to 20N150E then curves across the far Northern Mariana Islands to end near 17N130E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 350 miles northwest of the shear line. This includes Minami Tori Shima and the far northern CNMI. A near-equatorial trough extends across 4N130E and undulates far eastward to end southeast of Kosrae near 2N168E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Koror are west of a line from 9N130E to 6N135E to 3N130E. Other scattered showers are within 100 miles of a line from 6N135E to 5N142E. Much farther east are scattered showers and a few thunderstorms to the southeast of Kosrae or south of a line from 3N163E to 3N170E. A trade-wind disturbance west of Chuuk is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 100 miles of a line from 8N146E to 6N150E while scattered showers are south of Chuuk within 50 miles of a line from 6N150E to 6N154E. A large circulation east of Wake Island is centered at 18N175E with scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of a line from 22N177E to 15N174E. A surface trough across the Marshall Islands is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 125 miles of a line from 5N170E to 8N180 while scattered showers over Tarawa are between the equator and 3N from 170E to 176E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:12 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
10:21 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
5:37 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:31 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:12 PM	8:49 AM
Wednesday	11:12 PM	9:49 AM
Thursday		10:49 AM
Friday	12:07 AM	11:48 AM
Saturday	12:58 AM	12:45 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

China inflation edges up as Beijing shifts focus

BEIJING (AP)—China's inflation edged up in March as Beijing shifted from containing price rises to shoring up flagging growth in the world's second-largest economy.

Consumer prices rose 3.6 percent over a year earlier, up from February's 3.2 percent but below the government's 4 percent target for the year, data showed Monday. The increase was driven by a hike in state-set fuel prices and a 7.5 percent rise in politically sensitive food costs, up from the previous month's 6.2 percent but well below last year's double-digit rates.

"It suggests inflation momentum is under control, or subdued, and there is nothing for them to do," said Tim Condon, Asia economist for ING Financial Markets. "They must be pretty content with these numbers."

Beijing shifted focus from cooling prices to shoring up economic growth in December after inflation eased from a high of 6.5 percent in July. Beijing has promised to ease lending curbs to help companies that have been battered by a slump in global demand.

Analysts expect economic growth that has declined steadily over the past year to fall to a new low of about 8 percent for the three months ending in March, down from 8.9 percent in the final quarter of 2011. Official data are due to be reported this week.

Forecasters had expected a temporary acceleration in inflation in March but it should moderate in coming months and come in under the official target for the full year.

China's economic data often are clouded by the Lunar New Year holiday, which falls in either January or February and prompts many companies to close for a week or more. Trade and price data can be thrown off as factories rush to fill orders before the closure and then go on a buying binge to restock raw materials following the break.

The World Bank and International Monetary Fund have warned China and other developing countries to prepare for a possible global slowdown this year.

Chinese leaders tightened lending and investment curbs repeatedly in 2009 and 2010 to cool inflation and guide growth to a more sustainable level. They reversed course after a sharp fall in export demand.

The government has yet to announce major changes, but financial analysts say regulators are quietly easing access to credit. Analysts expect Beijing to lower interest rates or make more money available for lending by lowering the minimum level of reserves banks are required to hold.

AP

Chinese buy snack foods from a roadside mobile vender in Beijing, China, Monday, April 9, 2012. Consumer prices rose 3.6 percent over a year earlier, up from February's 3.2 percent but below the government's 4 percent target for the year, data showed Monday.

Natural gas glut means drilling boom must slow

NEW YORK (AP)—The U.S. natural gas market is bursting at the seams.

So much natural gas is being produced that soon there may be nowhere left to put the country's swelling surplus. After years of explosive growth, natural gas producers are retrenching.

The underground salt caverns, depleted oil fields and aquifers that store natural gas are rapidly filling up after a balmy winter depressed demand for home heating.

The glut has benefited businesses and homeowners that use natural gas. But with natural gas prices at a 10-year low—and falling—companies that produce the fuel are becoming victims of their drilling successes. Their stock prices are falling in anticipation of declining profits and scaled-back growth plans.

Some of the nation's biggest natural gas producers, including Chesapeake Energy, ConocoPhillips and Encana Corp., have announced plans to slow down.

"They've gotten way ahead of themselves, and winter got way ahead of them too," says Jen Snyder, head of North American gas for the research firm Wood Mackenzie. "There hasn't been enough demand to use up all the supply being pushed into the market."

So far, efforts to limit production have barely made a dent. Unless the pace of production declines sharply or demand picks up significantly this summer, analysts say the nation's storage facilities could reach their limits by fall.

That would cause the price of natural gas, which has been halved over the past year, to nosedive. Citigroup commodities analyst Anthony Yuen says the price of natural gas—now $2.08 per 1,000 cubic feet—could briefly fall below $1.

"There would be no floor," he says.

Since October, the number of drilling rigs exploring for natural gas has fallen by 30 percent to 658, according to the energy services company Baker Hughes. Some of the sharpest drop-offs have been in the Haynesville Shale in Northwestern Louisiana and East Texas and the Fayetteville Shale in Central Arkansas. But natural gas production is still growing, the result of a five-year drilling boom that has peppered the country with wells.

The workers and rigs aren't just being sent home. They are instead being put to work drilling for oil, whose price has averaged more than $100 a barrel for months. The oil rig count in the U.S is at a 25-year high. This activity is adding to the natural gas glut because natural gas is almost always a byproduct of oil drilling.

Analysts say that before long companies could have to start slowing the gas flow from existing wells or even take the rare and expensive step of capping off some wells completely.

"Something is going to have to give," says Maria Sanchez, manager of energy analysis at Bentek Energy, a research firm.

U.S. natural gas production has boomed in recent years as a result of new drilling techniques that allow companies to unlock fuel trapped in shale formations. Last year, the U.S. produced an average of 63 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day, a 24 percent increase from 2006. But over that period consumption has grown half as fast.

The nation's storage facilities could easily handle this extra supply until recently because cold winters pushed up demand for heating and hot summers led to higher demand for air conditioning. Just over half the nation's homes are heated with natural gas, and one-quarter of its electricity is produced by gas-fired power plants.

But this past winter was the fourth warmest in the last 117 years, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. It was the warmest March since 1950.

Between November and March, daily natural gas demand fell 5 percent, on average, from a year earlier, according to Bentek Energy. Yet production grew 8 percent over the same period.

"We haven't ever seen a situation like this before," says Chris McGill, Vice President for Policy Analysis at the American Gas Association, an industry group.

At the end of winter, there is usually about 1.5 trillion cubic feet of gas in storage. Today there is 2.5 trillion cubic feet because utilities withdrew far less than usual this past winter.

There is 4.4 trillion cubic feet of natural gas storage capacity in the U.S. If full, that would be enough fuel to supply the country for about 2 months.

If current production and consumption trends were to continue, Bentek estimates that storage facilities would be full on October 10.

Storage capacity, which has grown by 15 percent over the past decade, cannot be built fast enough to address the rapidly expanding glut. And analysts note there is little financial incentive to build more anyway.

The low price brought on by the glut has increased demand for natural gas among industrial users and utilities.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Brussels transport on strike after death of worker

BRUSSELS (AP)—Transport workers in Brussels have continued a strike for the second day after an employee was beaten to death Saturday morning. The company that runs public transport in Brussels says that metros, busses and trams won't start running again until a meeting with the interior minister to discuss improved safety. The ministry said Sunday a meeting between interior minister Joelle Milquet and Societe des Transports Intercommunaux de Bruxelles representatives will now take place Monday afternoon. The STIB has been demanding stepped-up security on its transport routes, citing an increasing number of violent acts against its employees. A STIB supervisor was beaten and killed Saturday morning after he was called to the site of an accident between a bus and a car. Belgian media has reported a suspect was arrested.

First-quarter earnings could derail market's climb

For the stock market, it was a triumphant first quarter. But for earnings growth, the past three months were just ho-hum. Analysts are expecting earnings for companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 index to decline 0.1 percent compared to a year ago, according to FactSet. It's a tiny number but a significant turning point. Earnings growth was on a winning streak for the previous nine quarters. Year-over-year earnings growth has been at least 10 percent for all but the most recent period, when it was 6 percent. The reasons for the expected slowdown range from global (a weak Europe hurts everybody) to mathematical (it's hard to top double-digit quarters). Whatever the cause, the stagnation in earnings growth is a stark reminder that the economy's problems are far from solved. Just three months ago, analysts were predicting 3 percent earnings growth for the first quarter. ***(AP)***

Contracts expire for many at AT&T; talks continue

NEW YORK (AP)—About 40,000 AT&T landline workers are staying on the job this week without a contract, their union said Sunday.

The workers' contracts expired over the weekend, raising the possibility of a strike. But the Communications Workers of America and AT&T Inc. said that they'll keep working on a new deal.

CWA spokeswoman Candice Johnson said union representatives met with AT&T on Sunday after talks ended late on Saturday. She doesn't know how long it will take to reach an agreement.

"Everyone wants to get this done soon," Johnson said.

The employees, meanwhile, will continue to receive the same wages and benefits as before. If negotiations break down, they still have the option to call for a walkout.

AT&T spokesman Marty Richter also said talks were ongoing. He said earlier that the company has been planning for the possibility for a strike for two years, and managers and vendors will step in to keep service running if there is one.

At issue in the negotiations are job protection clauses and health care premiums and copayments. AT&T says it wants employees to shoulder more of their growing health care costs and more leeway to downsize its shrinking landline operations. Some of its workers have contracts that guarantee them job offers at different parts of the company if they're laid off.

Union organizers point to the overall financial health of the company, which posted a profit of $4 billion for last year.

Four separate contracts in eastern, Midwestern and Western areas covering some 40,000 workers in total expired.

The workers are on the shrinking local-phone and long-haul data side of the business.

Three years ago, the parties kept talking past the contract expiration, and reached agreements without a strike.

Dallas-based AT&T Inc. is the country's largest employer of unionized workers. About 140,000 of its 256,000 employees are union members.

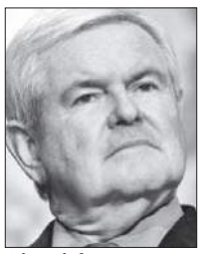
Nation

Gingrich: Still in, says Romney likely GOP nominee

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich once led his rivals for the nomination in polls. Today, he's millions in debt and describing Mitt Romney as "far and away the most likely" GOP nominee.

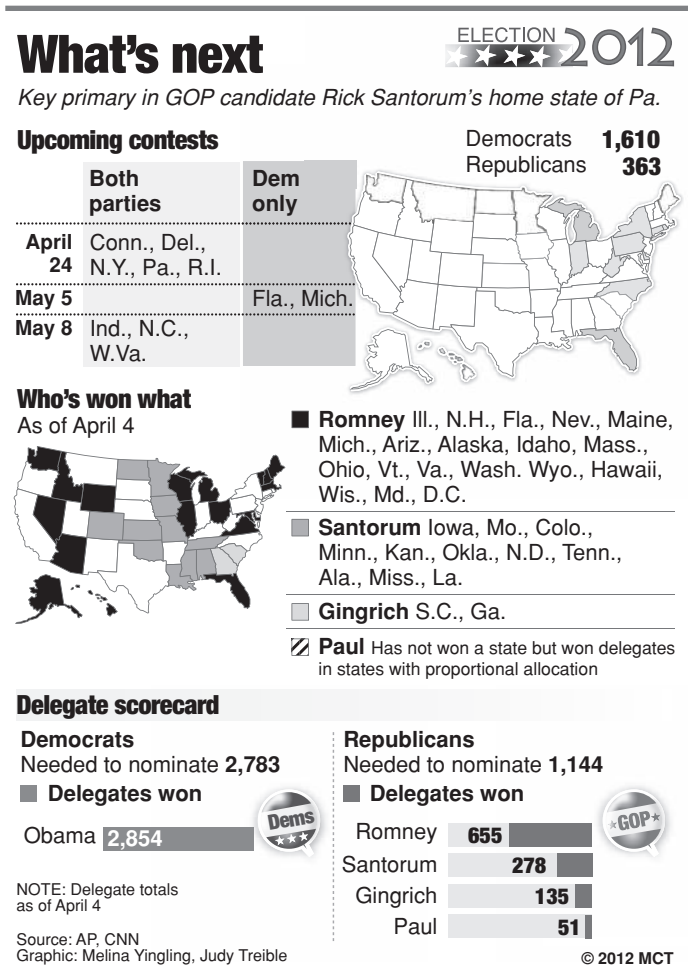
Running for president "turned out to be much harder than I thought it would be," he said Sunday.

"I do think there's a desire for a more idea-oriented Republican Party, but that doesn't translate necessarily to being able to take on the Romney machine," Gingrich told "Fox News Sunday" in a reflective interview.


Gingrich

After his Jan. 21 victory in the South Carolina primary, the former House Speaker said the Florida primary he lost in the following days turned into a "real brawl." He said Romney did a good job building a substantial machine, adding he has no regrets.

"Unfortunately, our guys tried to match Romney," Gingrich said of the Florida match-up. "It turned out, we didn't have anything like his capacity to raise money."


What's next
ELECTION 2012
Key primary in GOP candidate Rick Santorum's home state of Pa.
Upcoming contests
Both parties
Dem only
April 24 Conn., Del., N.Y., Pa., R.I.
May 5 Fla., Mich.
May 8 Ind., N.C., W.Va.
Democrats 1,610
Republicans 363
Who's won what
As of April 4
Romney Ill., N.H., Fla., Nev., Maine, Mich., Ariz., Alaska, Idaho, Mass., Ohio, Vt., Va., Wash. Wyo., Hawaii, Wis., Md., D.C.
Santorum Iowa, Mo., Colo., Minn., Kan., Okla., N.D., Tenn., Ala., Miss., La.
Gingrich S.C., Ga.
Paul Has not won a state but won delegates in states with proportional allocation
Delegate scorecard
Democrats
Needed to nominate 2,783
Delegates won
Obama 2,854
Republicans
Needed to nominate 1,144
Delegates won
Romney 655
Santorum 278
Gingrich 135
Paul 51
NOTE: Delegate totals as of April 4
Source: AP, CNN
Graphic: Melina Yingling, Judy Treible
© 2012 MCT

Gingrich said he has a little less than $4.5 million in campaign debt, and he's operating on a shoestring budget.

Despite Gingrich's acknowledgment of what appears to be his inevitable defeat, the former House speaker Gingrich isn't ready to drop out. Gingrich wants to influence the party's platform, which is a statement of principles on the issues. He's interested in promoting increased domestic oil production and personal Social Security savings accounts.

But, if Romney secures the nomination, Gingrich said he'll campaign for him.

"I hit him as hard as I could. He hit me as hard as he could. It turned out he had more things to hit with than I did. And, that's part of the business. He's done the fundraising side brilliantly," Gingrich said.

Gingrich has had a campaign full of ups and downs. Just weeks after entering the race last year, his campaign imploded. Months later, in the weeks before the Iowa caucuses, he surged. He came in behind Romney and Rick Santorum in Iowa, but won South Carolina. He had several losses before winning his home state of Georgia. He had hoped to carry the momentum of that win to other contests in the South, so far unsuccessfully.

Start of 2012, March shatter US heat records

WASHINGTON (AP)—It's been so warm in the United States this year, especially in March, that national records weren't just broken, they were deep-fried.

Temperatures in the lower 48 states were 8.6 degrees above normal for March and 6 degrees higher than average for the first three months of the year, according to calculations by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. That far exceeds the old records.

The magnitude of how unusual the year has been in the U.S. has alarmed some meteorologists who have warned about global warming. One climate scientist said it's the weather equivalent of a baseball player on steroids, with old records obliterated.

"Everybody has this uneasy feeling. This is weird. This is not good," said Jerry Meehl, a climate scientist who specializes in extreme weather at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo. "It's a guilty pleasure. You're out enjoying this nice March weather, but you know it's not a good thing."

It's not just March.

"It's been ongoing for several months," said Jake Crouch, a climate scientist at NOAA's National Climatic Data Center in Ashville, N.C.

Meteorologists say an unusual confluence of several weather patterns, including La Nina, was the direct cause of the warm start to 2012. While individual events can't be blamed on global warming, Couch said this is like the extremes that are supposed to get more frequent because of manmade climate change from the burning of fossil fuels such as coal and oil.

It's important to note that this unusual winter heat is mostly a North America phenomenon. Much of the rest of the Northern Hemisphere has been cold, said NOAA meteorologist Martin Hoerling.

The first quarter of 2012 broke the January-March record by 1.4 degrees. Usually records are broken by just one- or two-tenths of a degree. U.S. temperature records date to 1895.

The atypical heat goes back even further. The U.S. winter of 2010-2011 was slightly cooler than normal and one of the snowiest in recent years, but after that things started heating up. The summer of 2011 was the second warmest summer on record.

Tulsa police say shootings may have been revenge

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—Two men were arrested Sunday in a shooting rampage that left three people dead and terrorized Tulsa's black community, and police said one suspect may have been trying to avenge his father's shooting two years ago by a black man.

Police identified both suspects as white, while all five victims in the rampage early Friday were black.

Police and the FBI said it is too soon to say whether the attacks in Tulsa's predominantly black north side were racially motivated. Police spokesman Jason Willingham said that investigators are considering many possible motives but based on Facebook postings, revenge appeared to be a factor.

In a Thursday update on Facebook that appeared to have been written by 19-year-old Jake England, he angrily blamed his father's death on a black man and used a racial slur. He said Thursday was the second anniversary of his father's death.

"It's hard not to go off," given the anniversary and the death of his fiancee earlier this year, the posting said.

"It's apparent from the posting on the Facebook page that he had an ax to grind, and that was possibly part of the motive," Willingham said. "If you read the Facebook post and see what he's accused of doing, you can see there's link between the two of them."

AP
This photo combo of images provided by the Tulsa Police Department via the Tulsa World shows Jacob England, left, and Alvin Watts.

The Facebook page had been taken down by Sunday afternoon.

A family friend, Susan Sevenstar, told The Associated Press that England was "a good kid" and "a good, hard worker," who "was not in his right mind" after losing his father and the January suicide of his fiancee, with whom he'd recently had a baby.

"If anybody is trying to say this is a racial situation, they've got things confused," said Sevenstar, who described England as Cherokee Indian. "He didn't care what your color was. It wasn't a racist thing."

The Tulsa World reported that England's father, Carl, was shot in the chest during a scuffle with a man who had tried to break into his daughter's apartment. England later died.

The man charged in the shooting is serving a six-year sentence on a weapons charge, according to Department of Corrections records.

Acting on an anonymous tip and backed by a helicopter, police arrested Jake England and Alvin Watts, 32, about 2 a.m. Sunday at a home in Turley, just north of Tulsa. The two men were roommates, and officers went to their home, then followed them several blocks to another home, where they were arrested without incident, police said.

Authorities said they planned to charge them with murder and other offenses. Task force commander Maj. Walter Evans said that investigators recovered a weapon but that it was not clear who fired the shots. They also found a truck that had been burned.

Police previously said they were looking for a man in a white truck.

The Rev. Warren Blakney Sr., president of the Tulsa NAACP, said the arrests came as a big relief. Black community leaders had met Friday night amid fear over the shootings and concerns about possible vigilantism in retaliation.

"The community once again can go about its business without fear of there being a shooter on the streets on today, on Easter morning," Blakney said.

It was not immediately known if the suspects had lawyers.

Police Chief Chuck Jordan said the gunmen appeared to have chosen their victims at random. Police identified those killed as Dannaer Fields, 49, Bobby Clark, 54, and William Allen, 31. Two men were wounded but were released from the hospital, Jordan said.

The shootings come at a fraught moment for black Americans. In late February, an unarmed black teen, Trayvon Martin, was fatally shot by a neighborhood watch volunteer in Sanford, Fla., raising questions about racial profiling and touching off protests across the nation.

While Tulsa police were reluctant to describe the shootings there as racially motivated, City Councilman Jack Henderson was not.

"Being an NAACP president for seven years, I think that somebody that committed these crimes were very upset with black people," Henderson said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Suspect in dismembering says he met woman online

URBANA, Ohio (AP)—A man suspected of stabbing, suffocating and dismembering his girlfriend told a newspaper that he met her through Facebook while looking for new friends and that he met two of his alleged accomplices at a library just three days before the killing. Matthew Puccio, 25, is among five people charged in connection with the death of 21-year-old Jessica Rae Sacco, whose remains were found in the bathtub of their Urbana duplex apartment in late March, about a week after police believe she was killed. A couple from Fenton, Mich., and two people from Urbana are accused of failing to intervene in the killing and helping Puccio cut off or transport limbs that were dumped in southern Ohio and Kentucky, about 70 to 85 miles away.

7-year-old boy tied to Alaska arson fires

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—A 7-year-old Juneau boy has admitted setting five arson fires over a little more than four months, according to fire officials in Alaska's capital. Juneau fire marshal Dan Jager tells the Juneau Empire that the boy caused about $1,000 in damages by setting fires in restrooms at Harborview Elementary School and the Terry Miller Legislative Building, plus a downtown grass fire and two fires at a Fred Meyer store. The boy's name was not released.

No injuries in UK military helicopter mishap in AZ

EL CENTRO, Calif. (AP)—A British Chinook helicopter made an emergency landing during an exercise in the Arizona desert, U.S. and British military officials said. Seven people were sent to the hospital for evaluations but all were reported uninjured. The crew was practicing how to land the aircraft 15 miles northeast of Yuma Saturday afternoon when "something went wrong," said Michelle Dee, a spokeswoman for Naval Air Facility El Centro in California. The British Defense Ministry in London on Sunday confirmed it was an emergency landing during an exercise.

Asia

Rocket in position at launch pad in North Korea

TONGCHANG-RI, North Korea (AP)—North Korean space officials have moved all three stages of a long-range rocket into position for a controversial launch, vowing to push ahead with their plan in defiance of international warnings against violating a ban on missile activity.

The Associated Press was among foreign news agencies allowed a firsthand look Sunday at preparations under way at the coastal Sohae Satellite Station in northwestern North Korea.

North Korea announced plans last month to launch an observation satellite using a three-stage rocket during mid-April celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the birth of North Korean founder Kim Il Sung. The U.S., Japan, Britain and other nations have urged North Korea to cancel the launch, warning that firing the long-range rocket would violate U.N. resolutions and North Korea's promise to refrain from engaging in nuclear and missile activity.

North Korea maintains that the launch is a scientific achievement intended to improve the nation's faltering economy by providing detailed surveys of the countryside.

"Our country has the right and also the obligation to develop satellites and launching vehicles," Jang Myong Jin, general manager of the launch facility, said during a tour, citing the U.N. space treaty. "No matter what others say, we are doing this for peaceful purposes."

Experts say the Unha-3 rocket slated for liftoff between April 12 and 16 could also test long-range missile technology that might be used to strike the U.S. and other targets. Unha means galaxy in English.

North Korea has tested two atomic devices, but is not believed to have mastered the technology needed to mount a warhead on a long-range missile.

On Sunday, reporters were taken by train past desolate fields and sleepy farming hamlets to North Korea's new launch pad in Tongchang-ri in North Phyongan province, about 50 kilometers (35 miles) south of the border town of Sinuiju along North Korea's west coast.

All three stages of the 91-ton rocket, emblazoned with the North Korean flag and "Unha-3," were visibly in position at the towering launch pad, and fueling will begin soon, Jang said. He said preparations were well on track for liftoff and that international space, aviation and maritime authorities had been advised of the plan, but did not provide exact details on the timing of the fueling or the mounting of the satellite.

Engineers gave reporters a peek at the 100-kilogram (220-pound) Kwangmyongsong-3 satellite due to be mounted on the rocket, as well as a tour of the command center.

AP

A North Korean soldier stands in front of the country's Unha-3 rocket, slated for liftoff between April 12-16, at Sohae Satellite Station in Tongchang-ri, North Korea on Sunday April 8, 2012.

About two weeks before North Korea unveiled its rocket plan, Washington announced an agreement with the North to provide it with much-needed food aid in exchange for a freeze on nuclear activity, including a moratorium on long-range missile tests. Plans to send food aid, as well as a recently revived project to conduct joint searches for the remains of U.S. military personnel killed during the Korean War, have now been suspended.

Jang denied the launch was a cover for a missile test, saying the relatively diminutive rocket and fixed Sohae station would be "useless" for sending a mobile intercontinental ballistic missile.

"During the recent senior-level North Korea-U.S. talks, our side made clear there's only a moratorium on long-range missile launches, not on satellite launches," he said. "The U.S. was well aware of this."

Japan and South Korea, meanwhile, said they are prepared to shoot down any parts of the rocket that threaten to fall in their territory—a move North Korea's Foreign Ministry warned would be considered a declaration of war.

The launch is scheduled to take place three years after North Korea's last announced attempt to send a satellite into space, a liftoff condemned by the U.N. Security Council. North Korea walked away from nuclear disarmament negotiations in protest, and conducted an atomic test weeks later that drew tightened U.N. sanctions.

It is meant to show that North Korea has become a powerful, prosperous nation, celebrate the centenary of founder Kim Il Sung's birth, and usher in a new era under his grandson, Kim Jong Un, said Koh Yu-hwan, a professor of North Korean studies at Seoul's Dongguk University.

"North Korea needs to show some tangible achievements to its people to solidify Kim Jong Un's leadership," he said. "North Korea intends to provide its people with a sense of pride."

Kim Jong Un took power following the December death of his father, longtime leader Kim Jong Il, and is expected to assume more top posts during high-profile political and parliamentary meetings later this week—a step analysts say will formally complete the country's second hereditary power transfer.

The satellite is designed to send back images and information that will be used for weather forecasts as well as surveys of North Korea's natural resources, Jang said. He said a western launch was chosen to avoid showering neighboring nations with debris.

He said two previous satellites also named Kwangmyongsong, or Bright Shining Star, were experimental, but the third will be operational.

ASIA BRIEFS

Gunmen attack plane in Indonesia; journalist dead

TIMIKA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian police are searching for gunmen who sprayed a small commercial plane with bullets as it landed in the restive province of Papua. One passenger was killed. Maj. Gen. Saud Usman Nasution says the attack occurred Sunday in the hilly district of Puncak Jaya, a stronghold of separatists who have battled Indonesian rule in the impoverished region for more than 30 years. He said Monday that the twin otter Trigana Air plane was carrying eight people. One of the passengers, 35-year-old local journalist Leiron Kogoya, was hit in the neck by a bullet and died. Four others were wounded, including the pilot and the co-pilot. Papua is on the western half of the island of New Guinea and was handed over to Indonesia by the Dutch in the 1960s.

US helps Pakistan search for 135 buried in snow

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The U.S. sent a team of experts Sunday to help Pakistan search for 135 people buried a day earlier by a massive avalanche that engulfed a military complex in a mountain battleground close to the Indian border. At least 240 Pakistani troops and civilians worked at the site of the disaster at the entrance to the Siachen Glacier with the aid of sniffer dogs and heavy machinery, said the army. But they struggled to dig through some 25 meters (80 feet) of snow, boulders and mud that slid down the mountain early Saturday morning. Pakistani army spokesman Gen. Athar Abbas said Sunday evening that it was unclear whether any of the people who were buried are still alive. At least 124 soldiers from the 6th Northern Light Infantry Battalion and 11 civilian contractors are missing.

French tourist dies in fire at illegal Thai hotel

BANGKOK (AP)—A French tourist has been killed in an overnight fire that engulfed an illegally operated budget hotel in one of the Thai capital's main tourist districts. Police say the fire started at a bar on the ground floor of a three-story building in the city's Khao San Road neighborhood, an area popular with backpackers and budget travelers. Five tourists escaped but a 27-year-old Frenchman was found burned to death. Police Capt. Charnchai Changwang said Monday that the top floor of the building was occupied by an illegal guesthouse offering small rooms at cheap rates. The hotel was not registered with authorities and not subject to safety inspections.

Malaysia to let university students join politics

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Lawmakers are expected to approve a plan allowing Malaysia's university students to join political parties. Higher Education Minister Khaled Noordin on Monday tabled a proposal for legal amendments that would lift a decades-old ban on the involvement of university students in politics and allow them to participate in political activities not conducted on campus. Lawmakers are expected to debate and endorse the amendments soon. Prime Minister Najib Razak has pledged to improve civil liberties ahead of national elections expected within a few months. He has promised changes to some laws that opposition groups and human rights activists have called repressive. Those include laws allowing detention without trial and imposing strict rules on demonstrations.

India, Pakistan say they aim to normalize ties

NEW DELHI (AP)—The leaders of India and Pakistan agreed in talks Sunday that their countries should adopt a step-by-step approach to resolve their differences and build on a recent thaw in their strained relations.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and visiting Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari said the meeting—their first in nearly three years—was friendly and constructive.

"Relations between India and Pakistan should become normal. That's our common desire," Singh told reporters after the private talks, at which no aides were present.

"We would like to have better relations," Zardari said.

Singh said he had accepted an invitation from Zardari to visit Pakistan as soon as mutually acceptable dates are worked out. Before Sunday, the two had not met since June 2009, when they met in the Russian city of Yekaterinburg.

"We have a number of issues, but we are willing to find practical and pragmatic solutions to all those issues," Singh said. "That's the message President Zardari and I would like to convey."

Although Zardari was in India on what was called a private religious trip, the one-day visit gave him a chance to meet Indian leaders amid a thaw in relations between the two countries.

He later visited Ajmer Sharif, a revered Muslim shrine in India's western state of Rajasthan.

Zardari's visit to India, the first by a Pakistani head of state in seven years, is the most visible sign that the two countries have put behind them the enmity that followed the 2008 attacks in the Indian financial capital of Mumbai in which 10 Pakistani terrorists killed 166 people.

India has blamed the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba group for the Mumbai attacks and demanded that Islamabad crack down on the militants.

This past week, the United States put a $10 million bounty on Hafiz Mohammad Saeed, the group's founder, who operates openly in Pakistan.

Indian Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai told reporters that during their 40-minute meeting Sunday, the two leaders agreed to take a step-by-step approach to resolve the many long-standing problems that have dogged their countries' relationship.

Singh told Zardari that "it was imperative to bring the perpetrators of the Mumbai attacks to justice and prevent activities aimed against India from Pakistani soil," Mathai said. Singh said the Indian people would judge progress in the bilateral relationship based on what actions Islamabad takes to curb terror groups operating out of Pakistan, Mathai said.

Singh pressed Pakistan to act against Saeed, seen as the mastermind of the Mumbai attacks.

Zardari told Singh the two sides need to discuss the issue further and this would be likely when their interior secretaries meet in the next few weeks.

Zardari's visit came a day after a massive avalanche buried about 135 Pakistani soldiers near the Siachen glacier in the high Himalayas.

Zardari insisted that the two sides should resolve their decades-old disputes over the Sir Creek river estuary, Siachen and Kashmir, Mathai said.

Siachen is often described as the world's highest battlefield. India and Pakistan have stationed thousands of troops in Siachen's icy reaches, the control of which remains a simmering dispute between the two neighbors.

But both sides remain far from resolving their conflict over the Himalayan region of Kashmir, which both claim.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since the partition of the subcontinent on independence from Britain in 1947. Two of the wars have been over Kashmir.

World

Syria scuttles truce plan with new demands

BEIRUT (AP)—A U.N.-brokered plan to stop the bloodshed in Syria effectively collapsed Sunday after President Bashar Assad's government raised new, last-minute demands that the country's largest rebel group swiftly rejected.

The truce plan, devised by U.N.-Arab League envoy Kofi Annan, was supposed to go into effect on Tuesday, with a withdrawal of Syrian forces from population centers, followed within 48 hours by a cease-fire by both sides in the uprising against four decades of repressive rule by the Assad family.

■■■

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI implored the Syrian regime Sunday to heed international demands to end the bloodshed and expressed hope that the joy of Easter will comfort Christian communities suffering because of their faith.

Benedict, struggling with hoarseness and looking tired, celebrated Mass on Christianity's most joyous holy day on the flower-adorned steps of St. Peter's Basilica, before a crowd of faithful that swelled to far more than 100,000 by the end of the 2-hour-long ceremony.

■■■

But on Sunday, Syria's Foreign Ministry said that ahead of any troop pullback, the government needs written guarantees from opposition fighters that they will lay down their weapons.

The commander of the rebel Free Syrian Army, Riad al-Asaad, said that while his group is ready to abide by a truce, it does not recognize the regime "and for that reason we will not give guarantees."

Annan's spokesman had no comment on the setback. The envoy has not said what would happen if his deadlines were ignored.

Even before the setback, expectations were low that the Assad regime would honor the agreement.

Russia, an Assad ally that supports the cease-fire plan, may now be the only one able to salvage it. The rest of the international community, unwilling to contemplate military intervention, has little leverage over Syria.

In recent days, instead of preparing for a withdrawal, regime troops have stepped up shelling attacks on residential areas, killing dozens of civilians every day in what the opposition described as a frenzied rush to gain ground. Activists said at least 21 people were killed in violence on Sunday and as many as 40.

"Mortar rounds are falling like rain," said activist Tarek Badrakhan, describing an assault in the central city of Homs on Sunday. He spoke via Skype as explosions were heard in the background. The regime is exploiting the truce plan "to kill and commit massacres," he said.

Just as Annan complained Sunday that the escalation was "unacceptable," Syria said its acceptance of the Annan deal last week was misunderstood and suggested it would not be able to withdraw its troops under current conditions.

In addition to demanding written guarantees from the opposition, Foreign Ministry spokesman Jihad Makdessi said Syria also wants assurances from Annan that Qatar, Turkey and Saudi Arabia—Assad's most active critics—halt "financing and arming of terrorist groups."

Qatar and Saudi Arabia are said to be creating a multimillion dollar fund to pay rebel fighters, while Turkey has floated the idea of creating buffer zones for refugees in Syrian territory, near the Turkish border.

Many had expected the Assad regime to stall and create new obstacles to a truce because it has little to fear from the international community, said Peter Harling, an analyst at the International Crisis Group think tank.

"Nothing seems to have a price tag," he said, noting that regime has been accused of shelling whole neighborhoods, exacting collective punishment and driving people out of their homes.

The regime might also be reluctant to move forward for fear of losing control.

While Annan's plan calls for eventual negotiations between the government and the opposition over Syria's political future, anti-regime activists say huge numbers of protesters would probably flood the streets and quickly topple Assad if he were forced to halt his yearlong crackdown.

Makdessi, the Syrian official, suggested that a truce without guarantees would give rebels the upper hand. He said Syria will not allow a repeat of what happened during the Arab League's observer mission in Syria in January, when Assad pulled back his forces, only to see rebels flood the vacated areas.

The Syrian foreign minister is expected in Moscow on Monday, but it is not clear whether Russia will step in to try to salvage the Annan plan it had supported enthusiastically.

Despite growing criticism of Assad, Russia has consistently shielded him from international condemnation.

AP

In this citizen journalism image provided by the Local Coordination Committees in Syria and taken on Friday, April 6, 2012, Syrians chant slogans during a demonstration in Idlib, north Syria.

Mali's president hands in resignation

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—From one of the hiding places where he has been holed up since last month's coup, Mali's president penned a resignation letter and handed it to an emissary to deliver to the country's new leaders, while reporters looked on.

The move paves the way for Mali to name a new interim president, the next step in the nation's return to democratic rule. President Amadou Toumani Toure was just months from finishing his last term, when soldiers on March 21 stormed the presidential palace, sending Toure into hiding and canceling a democratic tradition stretching back more than two decades.

Under intense international pressure, however, the officers that seized power last month signed an accord on Friday, agreeing to return the country to constitutional rule. They did so after much of the capital only had 12 hours of electricity a day, a result of the severe financial sanctions imposed by the nation's neighboring Mali, including the closure of the country's borders, which made it impossible for landlocked Mali to import fuel.

The accord signed by the leader of the March 21 coup called for the application of Article 36 of Mali's constitution. The article states that in the event the president is unable to serve out his term, the head of the national assembly becomes interim president for a transitional period, before new elections can be held.

For that article to be able to be applied properly, however, Mali's constitutional court needed to confirm that the president cannot carry out his term.

Reporters from state television and French television station France 24 were allowed to film President Toure at a villa in the ACI 2000 neighborhood of the capital where he has been hiding. Looking thinner than before, the 63-year-old leader appeared in a flowing white robe and traditional bonnet. He said he was resigning of his own accord.

"I am doing this without any pressure, and I am doing this in good faith, and I am doing it especially out of love for my country. I have decided to hand in my resignation letter," Toure said.

His resignation will allow the court to declare the vacancy of power, paving the way for the head of the national assembly, Dioncounda Traore, to become interim president, as called for in the constitution.

The soldiers who grabbed power 17 days ago claimed they did so because of President Toure's mishandling of a rebellion in the north, which began in January. Toure's popularity took a nosedive because of his lack of assertiveness in the face of the mounting attacks, which inflicted large casualties on Mali's ill-equipped army.

The ethnic Tuareg rebels had succeeded in taking a dozen small towns, but it was only after Toure was forced from power that the insurgents succeeded in taking the three largest towns in the north. Kidal, Gao and Timbuktu all fell last weekend, and on Friday, the same day that the junta declared they were stepping down, the rebels declared their independence.

The loss of the northern half of the country, an area larger than France, has plunged Mali into crisis. The fighters are divided between a secular group and an Islamist faction that wants to impose Shariah law in Mali's moderate north. Already, women in the three cities have been forbidden to go out without veils.

Peru seeks help to free 9 trapped miners

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Peru's government appealed to mining companies on Sunday for heavy equipment and experts to help free nine miners trapped for four days in an informal copper mine.

Several dozen rescue workers have been using pickaxes and shovels to try to remove the 26 feet (eight meters) of collapsed earth and rock blocking the entrance of the mine, whose horizontal shaft is dug into a mountainside 175 miles (280 kilometers) southeast of Lima.

Firefighters have fashioned wooden beams to support the debris removal but their relatively crude efforts prompted Mining Minister Jorge Merino to appeal for help from mining companies.

Thursday's collapse occurred following a blast set by the miners themselves in a mine last exploited commercially in the 1980s.

Through a hose, rescuers have been able to communicate with the trapped miners and provide them with liquid sustenance and the local police chief, Jose Saavedra, told The Associated Press that several tons of earth and rock have already been removed from the tunnel's mouth.

Officials worry, however, that some could suffer from exposure though none appear to be hurt.

"They're being subjected to a lot of cold. The temperature is low because of the humidity," said Prime Minister Oscar Valdes.

Valdes told the reporters he estimated the miners would be freed in two to three days and that he had spoken to the men.

Miners arrived on Sunday evening from two nearby mines to help dig out the miners, authorities said.

The appearance of Valdes and Merino at the Cabeza de Negro mine 4,400 feet (1,347 meters) above sea level highlighted what some consider the government's lack of preparation for such an accident.

Peru "doesn't have a specialize team for mining rescues," said Jose de Echave, a former deputy environment minister.

Mining is the main engine of Peru's economy, accounting for more than 60 percent of its exports. It is the world's No. 2 copper exporter after neighboring Chile and ranks sixth in gold exports.

According to official figures, 52 miners died in Peru last year in work-related accidents, a third of them in mine shaft collapses.

WORLD BRIEFS

Car bomb near Nigeria churches kills 38

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—A suicide car bomber detonated his explosives Sunday morning on a busy road after apparently turning away from attacking Nigerian churches holding Easter services, killing at least 38 people in a massive blast that rattled a city long at the center of religious, ethnic and political violence in the nation. The blast struck Kaduna, the capital of Kaduna state, leaving charred motorcycles and debris strewn across a major road in the city where many gather to eat at informal restaurants and buy black market gasoline. Nearby hotels and homes had their windows blown out and roofs torn away by the force of the powerful explosion, which engulfed a group of motorcycle taximen.

Iran holds firm on nuclear 'rights' as talks loom

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—When talks between Iran and world powers collapsed last year, Tehran quickly blamed the West for trying to trample its "nuclear rights." The Iranian line appears little changed—signaling that critical negotiations could begin this week where the impasse left off. But Iranian officials also display a hint of confidence going into Friday's talks. They believe Tehran may have beaten back the toughest Western demands for a complete halt to uranium enrichment—the key issue of the standoff—and some bargaining room could open for new proposals. "They have not gained anything through confrontation with Iran," said Alaeddin Boroujerdi, head of the Iranian parliament's influential committee on national security and foreign policy.

Focus

AP

In this undated file photo released by the Communication and Liaison Services of the Office of the South African National Commissioner, the corpse of a slaughtered Rhino lays on the ground in a national park in South Africa.

AP

In this photo taken on 13 March 2012, Nguyen Huong Giang, 24, grinds rhinoceros horn with water at her apartment in Hanoi, Vietnam, demonstrating how she makes a liquid concoction she ingests after drinking too much alcohol or when suffering from allergies.

Vietnam craves rhino horn; costs more than cocaine

By MIKE IVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Nguyen Huong Giang loves to party but loathes hangovers, so she ends her whiskey benders by tossing back shots of rhino horn ground with water on a special ceramic plate.

Her father gave her the 4-inch (10-centimeter) brown horn as a gift, claiming it cures everything from headaches to cancer. Vietnam has become so obsessed with the fingernail-like substance it now sells for more than cocaine.

"I don't know how much it costs," said Giang, 24, after showing off the horn in her high-rise apartment overlooking the capital, Hanoi. "I only know it's expensive."

Experts say Vietnam's surging demand is threatening to wipe out the world's remaining rhinoceros populations, which recovered from the brink of extinction after the 1970s thanks to conservation campaigns. Illegal killings in Africa hit the highest recorded level in 2011 and are expected to worsen this year.

This week South Africa called for renewed cooperation with Vietnam after a "shocking number" of rhinos have already been reported dead this year.

China has long valued rhino horn for its purported—though unproven—medicinal properties, but U.S. officials and international wildlife experts now say Vietnam's recent intense craving, blamed partly on a widespread rumor that rhino horn cures cancer, is putting unprecedented pressure on the world's estimated 28,000 remaining animals, mainly in South Africa.

"It's a very dire situation," U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe said by telephone. "We have very little cushion for these populations in the wild."

Although data on the global rhino horn trade is scarce, poaching in Africa has soared in the past two years, with American officials saying China and Vietnam are driving the trade that has no "significant" end market in the United States.

Wildlife advocates say that over the last decade, rhino horn has become a must-have luxury item for some Vietnamese nouveau riche, alongside Gucci bags and Maybach cars.

Between 2006 and 2008, three diplomats at the Vietnamese Embassy in Pretoria were linked to embarrassing rhino trafficking scandals—including one caught on tape. In February, U.S. agents busted an alleged interstate rhino horn trafficking syndicate with Vietnamese-American ringleaders.

A court affidavit obtained by The Associated Press alleges one of those arrested in the U.S. case, Felix Kha, traveled to China 12 times between 2004 and 2011 and went to Vietnam five times last year.

"There are still horns going into China, but Vietnam is driving the increase in poaching for horns," said Chris R. Shepherd, deputy regional director for Southeast Asia at the wildlife advocacy group TRAFFIC. "Vietnamese authorities really need to step up their efforts to find out who is behind horn trafficking ... and put them out of business."

The rhino horn craze offers bigger payoffs than other exotic wildlife products such as bear bile or tiger bone paste. American officials say the crushed powder fetches up to $55,000 per kilogram in Asia ($25,000 per pound)—a price that can top the U.S. street value of cocaine, making the hoof-like substance literally as valuable as gold.

The drive is so great, thieves are now pinching rhino horns from European museums and taxidermy shops, sometimes smashing them off with sledgehammers before fleeing. According to Europol, the European law enforcement agency, 72 rhino horns were stolen from 15 European countries in 2011, the first year such data was recorded.

Poachers in South Africa are also using chain saws to rip rhinos' horns off, mutilating the hulky animals while they're still alive and leaving oozing bloody cavities in the heads of those lucky enough to survive.

Sometimes, they simply shoot the beasts dead, even though the horns can grow back within two years without harming the animal if carefully cut. Officials and nonprofits in South Africa are preemptively cutting some rhinos' horns in an attempt to save them, but some poachers are killing anyway just for the nubs.

Vietnam wiped out its own last known Javan rhinoceros in 2010 despite efforts to protect it. The last of the population was found dead in a national park, shot through the leg with its horn hacked off.

Tran Dang Trung, who manages a zoo outside Hanoi that imported four white rhinos from South Africa, said he worries for the animals' safety even though the zoo has 24-hour security.

"If thieves wanted to kill the animals and steal their valuable parts, they could," Trung said recently outside the rhinos' basketball court-sized outdoor pen.

Laws in Vietnam surrounding the business of importing horns are murky and crackdowns are rare despite government pledges to root out traffickers.

Officially, no more than 60 horns are legally imported into Vietnam as trophies bagged from South African game farms each year, but international wildlife experts have estimated the actual number of trophy horns taken by Vietnamese nationals from South Africa each year may exceed 100.

Albi Modise, spokesman for South Africa's Department of Environmental Affairs, said Wednesday the department is concerned about the difficulty of identifying Vietnamese who request permits and whether they have the means for big game hunting.

"It became pretty clear that there seemed to be some funding from outside individuals" of Vietnamese hunters, Modise said. "We're concerned as a department that evidently there are people who exploiting the permit system."

But he said that rather than imposing a blanket ban on Vietnamese hunters, the department is trying to resolve its concerns through diplomatic channels. Hanoi has also been asked to conduct inspections to make sure rhino trophies imported from South Africa still remain in the hunters' possession.

It's impossible to track how other rhino horns are entering Vietnam, wildlife advocates say, but they point to local media reports suggesting Vietnamese diplomats are implicated in the international trade that's been largely banned since 1976.

In 2006, a diplomat at Vietnam's South African Embassy was arrested for trafficking rhino horn, while another was filmed two years later trading the substance outside the mission's gates. A third diplomat was also questioned that same year after 18 kilograms (40 pounds) of rhino horn was found in his car outside a casino.

In a statement, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Luong Thanh Nghi said those incidents reflected badly upon Vietnam's image and that the diplomats all faced disciplinary measures.

Meanwhile, illegal rhino killings in South Africa are skyrocketing—from 122 in 2009 to 333 in 2010 and a record 448 in 2011. The country reported last week that 150 rhinos had already been poached this year, nearly 60 percent taken from Kruger National Park.

In Hanoi, Vietnamese buy rhino horn on the streets of the bustling old quarter, where a traditional medicine dealer recently told the AP that the average prescription costs 200,000 dong ($10).

Hanoi doctors report that some of their clients take the powder as a supplement to western medicines, believing it cures fever and other common ailments. Others use it as a last-ditch effort against cancer.

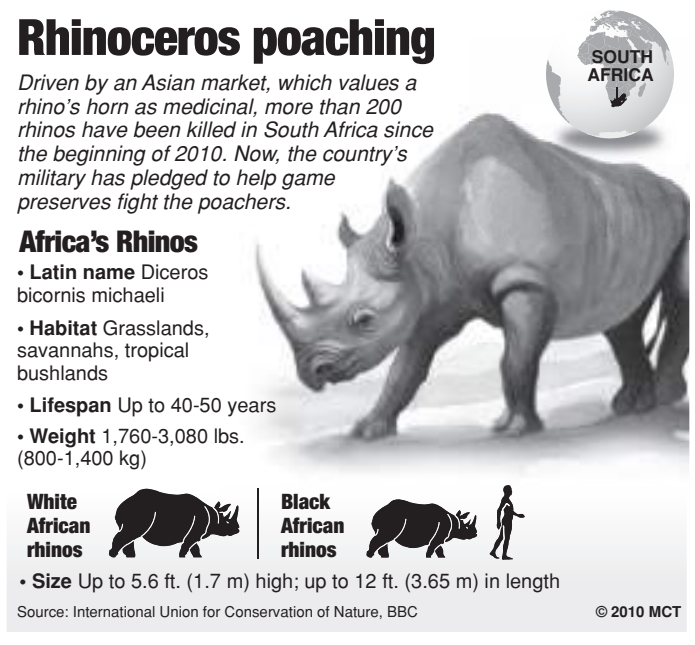
Nguyen Huu Truong, a doctor at Hanoi's Center for Allergy Clinical Immunology, said a handful of patients visit him each year complaining of rashes he links to rhino horn consumption.

"Many Vietnamese believe that anything expensive is good, but if you're going to spend a lot of money on rhino horn, you might as well bite your nails," he said. Rhino horns are composed of keratin, a protein found in human hair and fingernails.

Giang, the young Vietnamese woman who regularly uses rhino horn to prevent hangovers, says she's unfazed by doctors' assessments of the substance's efficacy and doesn't care to know how her father acquired the horn.

Experts say some rhino horns passing through Vietnam are fakes, and the AP couldn't verify the authenticity of Giang's horn, which she grinds on a plate with a rough finish made specifically for the task. She ingests the liquefied form when she has allergic reactions or after tippling on too much top-shelf liquor.

Because Giang only takes rhino horn shots once or twice every three months, she estimates her horn will last another 10 to 15 years. But once her stash is depleted, there may not be any rhinos left on earth to satisfy her craving.


Rhinoceros poaching
Driven by an Asian market, which values a rhino's horn as medicinal, more than 200 rhinos have been killed in South Africa since the beginning of 2010. Now, the country's military has pledged to help game preserves fight the poachers.
SOUTH AFRICA
Africa's Rhinos
• Latin name Diceros bicornis michaeli
• Habitat Grasslands, savannahs, tropical bushlands
• Lifespan Up to 40-50 years
• Weight 1,760-3,080 lbs. (800-1,400 kg)
White African rhinos
Black African rhinos
• Size Up to 5.6 ft. (1.7 m) high; up to 12 ft. (3.65 m) in length
Source: International Union for Conservation of Nature, BBC
© 2010 MCT

Overdrive

Ford Taurus edges into luxury space

By G. CHAMBERS WILLIAMS III
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

Less than three years after giving its Taurus a complete makeover, Ford Motor Co. for 2013 rolls out a "freshened" version of the iconic large sedan, complete with more high-tech features and better fuel economy.

Among the new technology is an optional system that allows the car to parallel-park itself, something that resonates with female buyers, the automaker said.

Although prices begin at $26,600 excluding destination charge for the base SE model, the Taurus continues its move upscale. The test model—the all-wheel-drive Limited version—has a starting price of $34,850, but our tester topped out at $41,135, complete with options and freight.

That puts the car in the premium class, where it competes with Ford's own Lincoln luxury brand. Ford says the 2013 Taurus was benchmarked against the Audi A6, whose prices for 2012 begin at $41,700. So if the Taurus is truly an equal, its base sticker price makes it a bargain.

The Limited isn't even the top model, though. For performance addicts, the Taurus SHO continues in the lineup with a base price of $39,200.

Ford says the 2013 Taurus has an enhanced design that includes an "imposing" front end, new trunk lid, full LED taillights, new soft-touch materials in the cabin, and a quieter ride.

FORD/MCT

Ford's 2013 Taurus includesEmore high-tech features and better fuel economy.

The base 3.5-liter V-6 engine gets a boost of 25 horsepower—up to 288 horsepower and 254 foot-pounds of torque—yet has fuel economy 1 mpg better than the 2012 model in both city and highway driving. The new ratings are 19 city/29 highway.

For even better mileage, there is a new, optional 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine with 240 horsepower and 270 foot-pounds of torque, delivering EPA ratings of 22 city/31 highway.

The SHO (Super High Output) model, which Ford calls a "sleeper performance vehicle," retains the 3.5-liter EcoBoost turbo engine from 2012. It produces 365 horsepower and 350 foot-pounds of torque, and has EPA ratings of 17 city/25 highway.

Available with the SHO is the Performance Package, which adds a special sport-tuned suspension with unique dampers and springs; performance brake pads and unique track-tuned calipers; electronic stability control with a setting for track driving; a 3.16-1 final drive ratio for quicker starts; an "extreme-duty" cooling system; and 20-inch painted/machined wheels with 245/YR20 summer-compound tires.

All Taurus models come with a six-speed automatic transmission, and no manual is offered even on the SHO. Each engine has its own version of the six-speed gearbox, however.

All-wheel drive is standard on the SHO, and optional on the Limited and midlevel SEL versions; SE models come only with front drive.

The all-wheel-drive models with the base V-6 engine take a big hit on fuel economy—17 city/25 highway, the same as the SHO with the bigger engine.

SEL starting prices for 2013 are $28,800 with front-wheel drive, and $30,650 with all-wheel drive. The Limited model with front drive begins at $33,000.

The Taurus Limited has the look, feel and driving characteristics of a premium sedan, so much so that it's easy to imagine oneself in a luxury brand rather than "just" a Ford. But the line between "regular" and "luxury" brands gets more blurred every year, with prices being the only real differential on some of them.

The ride was smooth and quiet, and the driver's seat quite comfortable. There is room for up to five adults inside, and there is plenty of legroom for the rear passengers.

With the redesign of the interior, the 2013 Taurus has new seat fabrics and cloth-wrapped door pillars. The headrests are now four-way adjustable, which helps limit neck fatigue on a long ride.

The Limited model, though, comes with perforated leather seats, along with other standard amenities such as heated outside mirrors with memory, chrome on the exterior, puddle lamps, bright metal front door-sill plates, premium 19-inch painted wheels, dual-zone automatic climate control, 10-way power front seats, a leather-wrapped steering wheel with wood insert, rearview camera with reverse-sensing, universal garage/gate opener, and the My-Ford Touch connectivity system with 8-inch color touch screen in the center of the dash, along with two 4.2-inch LCD instrument-cluster screens.

The self-parking system—Active Park Assist—comes in an options package along with other new technology, including rain-sensing wipers and heated/cooled front seats. A 12-speaker premium Sony audio system is part of this package, as well.

NUTS & BOLTS

2013 Ford Taurus

- Full-size, premium, five-passenger, four-door, four-cylinder or V-6 powered, front- or all-wheel-drive sedan.
- Highlights: Ford's large sedan gets a partial makeover for 2013 after a complete redesign just three years ago. Added is an optional EcoBoost four-cylinder engine, some design enhancements, more technology, and for some models, improved fuel economy.
- Negatives: Can get quite pricey with all the options, especially the Limited and SHO versions.
- Engines: 3.5-liter normally aspirated V-6; 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder (optional); 3.5-liter EcoBoost turbo V-6 (SHO model only).
- Transmission: Six-speed automatic.
- Power/torque: 288 hp/254 foot-pounds (base V-6); 240 hp/270 foot-pounds (2.0-liter EcoBoost); 365 hp/350 foot-pounds (3.5-liter EcoBoost).
- Brakes, front/rear: Disc/disc, antilock.
- Length: 202.9 inches.
- Curb weight: 4,015-4,368 pounds.
- Trunk volume: 20.1 cubic feet.
- Towing capacity: 1,000 pounds.
- Electronic stability control: Standard.
- Side air bags: Standard front seat-mounted, and side-curtain for all rows.
- Fuel capacity/type: 19 gallons/unleaded regular (premium recommended but not required for SHO model).
- EPA fuel economy: 19 mpg city/29 highway (base 3.5, front drive); 22/31 (2.0-liter); 17/25 (both V-6 engines with all-wheel drive).
- Base price range: $26,600
- Price as tested: $41,135, including freight
- Rating: 9.2 (of a possible 10).

UNDER THE HOOD

Why are electric cars so complex?

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: Since we have solar panels on our house and produce more electricity than we use, I am looking for an all-electric car. Under consideration: Nissan Leaf or electric Ford Focus. I don't really want to pay for the initial price and additional upkeep on a gasoline engine and an electric engine, as they are redundant systems, so I am not in the market for a hybrid.

It seems like the car companies that are making electric cars are loading them up with technical features that increase the cars' selling price. I don't need a computer in my car and have no use for GPS. Also, it seems to me that electric windows and electric door locks add to the electric system load and help to run down the battery. All-electric cars have fewer moving parts and would seem to be pretty simple to maintain and fix during the life of the car. No gas and oil to maintain, no transmission fluid, clutches or trannies to wear out.

Also, how much by percentage do the electric feedback braking systems add to the battery charge life on an electric car battery? Is it worth the added cost?

I am in my 60s and still do my own oil changes and brake pad changes, alternator change-outs, etc. I really despise the trend to make vehicles less accessible to the home garage or hobby mechanic. In your opinion, can I expect to see an all electric car marketed soon that I can buy without all the add-on "junk"? That stuff should be optional.—Mike Moore

ANSWER: Mike, I published your letter not so much because I have answers, but because your thoughts might do well if heard. I agree there's an alarming trend to load up hybrid and electric vehicles with expensive accessories, which I believe is because they play well with techie people and are highly profitable.

A bare-bones electric vehicle, similar in concept to the Volkswagen Beetle of the 1960s, might find wide appeal among a broad audience and jump-start the electric vehicle movement beyond its single-digit percentage market penetration. Perhaps the battery pack could be modular. Then owners could purchase the needed range, with the option to upgrade later if desired. Could Subaru, or another green, innovative mid-size car company, do this in numbers large enough to get production costs down, and make profits on high sales volume rather than a lesser quantity of loaded vehicles?

You'll still need computers to efficiently manage the electric-drive system and required safety systems, as well as the less accessorized electrical system, which saves cost and weight. Regenerative braking, which converts vehicle motion to electricity, is cheap to incorporate and provides measurable benefits. The numbers vary widely depending on vehicle speed, road slope, the degree of braking and the algorithm employed, providing approximately a 10 percent to 30 percent range dividend.

Another option you might consider is to build your own electric vehicle. Check out the Electric Auto Association at http:///www.electricauto.org for ideas and information. Specific electric conversion kit information can be found at http://www.e-volks.com.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Diagnosing a stubborn stalling issue

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I have a 1996 Camry LE with a four-cylinder engine and about 165,000 miles; we've owned it since it was new. A couple of months ago, it started racing at idle—1,100 rpm in gear and 2,000 rpm in park. If I shifted into gear from park, the engine died and wouldn't restart. A shop with a great reputation measured zero fuel pressure. They replaced the fuel pump, but the problem continued. The mechanic then replaced the fuel regulator at no labor charge. The car still dies occasionally but will usually restart. The shop is reluctant to start just replacing parts, and I'm pretty sure they've checked all the related sensors (carbon monoxide, oxygen).

ANSWER: Perhaps the shop can connect a data recorder to the diagnostic link and have you drive the car until it stalls. They may be able to download the data at the time the engine stalls and determine the cause of the shutdown.

A continuing problem with fuel pressure could obviously cause stalling, and if it were a mechanical issue it may not trigger a fault code. It's worth checking the accuracy of the coolant temperature sensor, for example, because an inaccurate signal could cause stalling without recording a fault code.

If the stalling occurs only when the engine is fully warmed up and idling in gear at a stop, a low oil pressure signal from the oil pressure switch on the engine may be shutting off the fuel pump.

■■■

Q: We have a 2010 Nissan Maxima that has a feature that raises the steering wheel when the engine is shut off. At least three times in the past eight months, it has failed to drop down into position when the engine is started. Thankfully, a switch on the column also can be used to reposition the column. We're nearing the 36,000-mile warranty expiration and are glad it's documented with our dealer, but we're concerned about this. Any ideas?

A: The automatic tilt function of the steering wheel is part of the automatic drive positioner system, which is integrated with the driver seat control unit. If the driver's seat moves into its memory position correctly but the steering wheel fails to tilt down into its memory position, the harness, connections or automatic drive positioner system module are suspect. A scan tool may be able to pull a specific fault code identifying the problem.

Life&Style

Mike Wallace,
'60 Minutes' interrogator, dies

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—"Mike Wallace is here to see you."

The "60 Minutes" newsman had such a fearsome reputation that it was often said that those were the most dreaded words in the English language, capable of reducing an interview subject to a shaking, sweating mess.

Wallace, who won his 21st and final Emmy Award at 89, died Saturday in the New Canaan, Connecticut, care facility where he had lived the last few years of his life. He was 93.

Wallace didn't just interview people. He interrogated them. He cross-examined them. Sometimes he eviscerated them pitilessly. His weapons were many: thorough research, a cocked eyebrow, a skeptical "Come on" and a question so direct it took your breath away.

He was well aware that his reputation arrived at an interview before he did, said Jeff Fager, CBS News chairman and Wallace's long-time producer at "60 Minutes."

"He loved it," Fager said Sunday. "He loved that part of Mike Wallace. He loved being Mike Wallace. He loved the fact that if he showed up for an interview, it made people nervous. ... He knew, and he knew that everybody else knew, that he was going to get to the truth. And that's what motivated him."

Wallace made "60 Minutes" compulsively watchable, television's first newsmagazine that became appointment viewing on Sunday nights. His last interview, in January 2008, was with Roger Clemens on his alleged steroid use. Slowed by a triple bypass later that month and the ravages of time on a once-sharp mind, he retired from public life.

During the Iranian hostage crisis in 1979, he asked Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini—then a feared figure—what he thought about being called "a lunatic" by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. Khomeini answered by predicting Sadat's assassination.

Late in his career, he interviewed Russian President Vladimir Putin, and challenged him: "This isn't a real democracy, come on!" Putin's aides tried to halt the interview; Putin said he was the president, he'll decide what to do.

"Many people who weathered a Mike Wallace interview grew to respect him greatly and, you know, have great regard for him because I don't recall anybody ever saying to me, 'He took a cheap shot' or 'He did the obvious,' or that he was, you know, playing some kind of game," Fox News Channel Chairman Roger Ailes said on Sunday. "He actually was trying to serve the audience, and that's what made him great."

When a Wallace story found little to back up rumors that Coors beer executives were racist, the relieved company took out newspaper ads trumpeting that it had survived. The ad's top: "The four most dreaded words in the English language: Mike Wallace is here."

He was equally tough on public and private behavior. In 1973, with the Watergate scandal growing, he sat with top Nixon aide John Ehrlichman and read a long list of alleged crimes, from money laundering to obstructing justice. "All of this," Wallace noted, "by the law-and-order administration of Richard Nixon."

The surly Ehrlichman could only respond: "Is there a question in there somewhere?"

In the early 1990s, Wallace reduced Barbra Streisand to tears as he scolded her for being "totally self-absorbed" when she was young and mocked her decades of psychoanalysis. "What is it she is trying to find out that takes 20 years?" Wallace wondered.

"I'm a slow learner," Streisand told him.

"He was hands down the best television interviewer ever," said Steve Kroft, his former "60 Minutes" colleague. "I can't think of anyone, besides (CBS legend Edward R.) Murrow, who had a greater influence in shaping television journalism."

"60 Minutes" pioneered the use of "ambush interviews," with reporter and camera crew corralling alleged wrongdoers in parking lots, hallways, wherever a comment—or at least a stricken expression—might be harvested from someone dodging reporters' phone calls. Wallace once went after a medical laboratory offering Medicaid kickbacks to doctors in this fashion.

They were phased out after founding executive producer Don Hewitt termed them "showbiz baloney." ''Finally I said, 'Hey, kid, maybe it's time to retire that trenchcoat,'" Hewitt recalled.

Wallace's late colleague Harry Reasoner once said, "There is one thing that Mike can do better than anybody else: With an angelic smile, he can ask a question that would get anyone else smashed in the face."

As a young producer at the CBS' New York affiliate, Fager first dealt with Wallace when he had to cut down one of the reporter's stories to 90 seconds for a broadcast.

AP

In this Feb. 2, 1980 file photo, co-editor Mike Wallace, left, interviews composer Leonard Bernstein during taping of a part of CBS-TV's "60 Minutes," in New York, in a program set to air four days before a revival of the composer's "West Side Story" that opens on Broadway.

"I was scared of him and intimidated by him," he said. "He knew it and he would just make you more miserable. That was Mike. He always had a twinkle in his eye, and even if you were intimidated by him, it was hard not to love him."

His prosecutorial style was admired, imitated, condemned and lampooned. In a 1984 skit on "Saturday Night Live," Harry Shearer impersonated Wallace, and Martin Short played weaselly, chain-smoking attorney Nathan Thurm, who becomes comically evasive, shifty-eyed and nervous under questioning.

Wallace was hired when Hewitt put together the staff of "60 Minutes" at its inception in 1968. The show wasn't a hit at first, but worked its way up to the top 10 in the 1977-78 season and remained there year after year. Among other things, it proved there could be big profits in TV journalism. It remains the most popular newsmagazine on TV.

Wallace said he didn't think he had an unfair advantage over his interview subjects: "The person I'm interviewing has not been subpoenaed. He's in charge of himself, and he lives with his subject matter every day. All I'm armed with is research."

Wallace himself became a dramatic character in several projects, from the stage version of "Frost/Nixon," when he was played by Stephen Rowe, to the 1999 film "The Insider," based in part on a 1995 "60 Minutes" story about tobacco industry whistleblower Jeffrey Wigand, who accused Brown & Williamson of intentionally adding nicotine to cigarettes. Christopher Plummer starred as Wallace and Russell Crowe as Wigand. Wallace was unhappy with the film, in which he was portrayed as caving to pressure to kill a story about Wigand.

Operating on a tip, The New York Times reported that "60 Minutes" planned to excise Wigand's interview from its tobacco expose. Wigand had signed a nondisclosure agreement with his former company, and the network feared that by airing what he had to say, "60 Minutes" could be sued along with him.

The day the Times article appeared, Wallace downplayed the gutted "60 Minutes" story as "a momentary setback." He soon sharpened his tone. When the revised report finally aired, he told viewers that he was "dismayed that the management at CBS had seen fit to give in to perceived threats of legal action." The full report eventually was broadcast.

In addition to his Emmys, Wallace won five DuPont-Columbia journalism and five Peabody awards.

In all, his television career spanned six decades, much of it at CBS. In 1949, he appeared as Myron Wallace in a show called "Majority Rules." In the early 1950s, he was an announcer and game show host for programs such as "What's in a Word?" He also found time to act in a 1954 Broadway play, "Reclining Figure," directed by Abe Burrows.

In the mid-1950s came his smoke-wreathed "Night Beat," a series of one-on-one interviews with everyone from an elderly Frank Lloyd Wright to a young Henry Kissinger that began on local TV in New York and then appeared on the ABC network. It was the show that first brought Wallace fame as a hard-boiled interviewer, a "Mike Malice" who rarely cut his subjects any slack.

Wrote Coronet magazine in 1957: "Wallace's interrogation had the intensity of a third degree, often the candor of a psychoanalytic session. Nothing like it had ever been known on TV. ... To Wallace, no guest is sacred, and he frankly dotes on controversy."

Consider this "Night Beat" exchange, with colorful restaurateur Toots Shor. Wallace: "Toots, why do people call you a slob?" Shor: "Me? Jiminy crickets, they musta' been talking about Jackie Gleason."

In those days, Wallace said, "interviews by and large were virtual minuets. ... Nobody dogged, nobody pushed." He said that was why "Night Beat" ''got attention that hadn't been given to interview broadcasts before."

It was also around then that Wallace did a bit as a TV newsman in the 1957 Hollywood drama "A Face in the Crowd," which starred Andy Griffith as a small-town Southerner who becomes a political phenomenon through his folksy television appearances. Two years later, Wallace helped create "The Hate That Hate Produced," a highly charged program about the Nation of Islam that helped make a national celebrity out of Malcolm X and was later criticized as biased and inflammatory.

After holding a variety of other news and entertainment jobs, including serving as advertising pitchman for a cigarette brand, Wallace became a full-time newsman for CBS in 1963.

He said it was the death of his 19-year-old son Peter in an accident in 1962 that made him decide to stick to serious journalism from then on. (Another son, Chris, followed his father and became a broadcast journalist. He anchors "Fox News Sunday" on Fox broadcast.)

Wallace had a short stint reporting from Vietnam and took a sock in the jaw while covering the tumultuous 1968 Democratic convention in Chicago. But he didn't fit the stereotype of the Eastern liberal journalist. He was a close friend of the Reagans and was once offered the job of Richard Nixon's press secretary. He called his politics moderate.

One "Night Beat" interview resulted in a libel suit, filed by a police official angry over remarks about him by mobster Mickey Cohen. Wallace said ABC settled for $44,000, and he called it the only time money had been paid to a plaintiff in a suit in which he was involved.

The most publicized lawsuit against him was by retired Gen. William C. Westmoreland, who sought $120 million for a 1982 "CBS Reports" documentary, "The Uncounted Enemy: A Vietnam Deception," that accused Westmoreland and others of deliberately underestimating enemy troop strength during the Vietnam War.

Westmoreland dropped the libel suit in 1985 after a long trial. Lawyers for each side later said legal costs of the suit totaled $12 million, of which $9 million was paid by CBS.

Wallace said the case brought on depression that put him in the hospital for more than a week. "Imagine sitting day after day in the courtroom, hearing yourself called every vile name imaginable," he said.

In 1996, he appeared before the Senate's Special Committee on Aging to urge more federal funds for depression research, saying that he had felt "lower, lower, lower than a snake's belly" but had recovered through psychiatry and antidepressants. He later disclosed that he once tried to commit suicide during that dark period. Wallace, columnist Art Buchwald and author William Styron were friends who commiserated often enough about depression to call themselves "The Blues Brothers," according to a 2011 memoir by Styron's daughter, Alexandra.

Wallace called his 1984 book, written with Gary Paul Gates, "Close Encounters." He described it as "one mostly lucky man's encounters with growing up professionally." In 2005, he brought out his memoir, "Between You and Me."

Wallace was born Myron Wallace on May 9, 1918, in Brookline, Mass. He began his news career in Chicago in the 1940s, first as a radio news writer for the Chicago Sun and then as a reporter for WMAQ. He started at CBS in 1951.

He was married four times. In 1986, he wed Mary Yates Wallace, the widow of his close friend and colleague Ted Yates, who had died in 1967. Besides his wife, Wallace is survived by his son, a stepdaughter, Pauline Dora, and stepson Eames Yates.

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American Reunion

Friday and Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Jason Biggs, Alyson Hannigan
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

The American Pie series comes full circle as the characters from the 1999 comedy classic return to East Great Falls for their 10 year high school reunion, and experience a weekend they will never forget. While some like Jim (Jason Biggs) and Michelle (Alysson Hannigan) got serious and tied the knot, others like Oz (Chris Klein) and Heather (Mena Suvari) went their separate ways. Meanwhile, Finch (Eddie Kaye Thomas) still looks back with lust at that perfect evening he spent with Stiffler's mom. Sean William Scott, Tara Reid, Thomas Ian Nicholas, and Shannon Elizabeth also star in a film featuring Eugene Levy and Natasha Lyonne.

★ ★ ★

Wrath Of The Titans

Friday and Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Sam Worthington, Liam Neeson
Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Warner Bros. and Legendary Pictures presents this follow-up to their mythological sword-and-sandal remake with this sequel penned by Dan Mazeau and David Leslie Johnson. Jonathan Liebesman (Battle: Los Angeles) handles direction duties, with Sam Worthington and Gemma Arterton returning as Perseus and Io.

Mirror Mirror

Friday and Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Julia Roberts, Lily Collins
Fantasy • Rated PG

The Hunger Games

Friday and Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson
Science fiction • Rated PG 13

21 Jump Street

Friday and Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Jonah Hill, Channing Tatum
Comedy, Action • Rated R

The Vow

Friday and Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Rachel McAdams, Channing Tatum
Drama • Rated PG 13

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax

Friday and Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Zac Efron, Taylor Swift
Children's/Family • Rated PG

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Mr. Gay World comes to Africa

By DONNA BRYSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

Andreas Derleth of New Zealand, front center, is cheered by participants as he is named Mr. Gay World 2012 during the grand finale of the competition in Johannesburg, Sunday, April 8, 2012.

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—After Mr. Gay Ethiopia entered the Mr. Gay World contest, his father cut off all communications. Mr. Gay Zimbabwe withdrew, fearing the publicity was making life difficult for his mother.

But Mr. Gay Namibia's family accompanied him to the airport for a warm send-off when he left for the competition, which culminated for him and 21 other men late Sunday in the finals at a Johannesburg casino.

"Bring the trophy home," Namibia's Wendelinus Hamutenya said his mother told him.

In the end, New Zealand's Andreas Derleth, a 32-year-old manager for a chain of stationery stores, was named Mr. Gay World. A disappointed Hamutenya said he would nonetheless return to Namibia to fight "for gay rights and human rights."

Hamutenya said his experience shows that Africans and Africa can change. On the continent, gay rights activists have been vilified, threatened and killed. Laws in dozens of African countries ban homosexual acts. Prominent African politicians ridicule gays and minor politicians grab headlines by proposing even tougher anti-gay laws.

"I hope and I believe that Namibia will be the second country in Africa to recognize the rights" of gays, Hamutenya said in an interview.

The first country is South Africa, also the first African country to host Mr. Gay World, which debuted in 2009 in Canada. The bill of rights adopted after apartheid ended in South Africa in 1994 explicitly bans discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation. Same-sex couples can marry and adopt children in South Africa.

Teboha Maitse, acting chairman of South Africa's Commission for Gender Equality, said she fought white racist rule alongside openly gay comrades, and that experience made her and others aware of the need to enact legal protections for gays. But she said when she travels farther north, "people say, 'You South Africans, you don't behave like Africans.'"

Maitse, whose government-appointed commission regularly speaks out in support of gay and lesbian rights, acknowledged in an interview that even in South Africa gays, lesbians and others who don't fit a traditional definition of the sexual norm do face discrimination and worse.

Of particular concern in recent years have been attacks on lesbians sometimes called "corrective rapes." Maitse said gay men often suffer in silence, sometimes committing suicide to escape taunts. She said poor, black gays and lesbians are particularly vulnerable because the communities in which they live are conservative.

South Africa's Mr. Gay World contestant, Lance Weyer, is white. Weyer, a psychologist who recently won office on a city council in southeastern South Africa, said gays like him have the education and money to fight back when their rights are violated. That makes it all the more important, he said, for successful gays and lesbians to speak out, both to be role models for others and to shake up conservative attitudes.

Weyer was named first runner up Sunday. Neither of the black African contestants made it to the final 10.

"We look for the best man, whether he's white or black or any other color," said Tore Aasheim, one of the Mr. Gay World organizers, adding he hoped more contestants from Africa would participate in future contests.

It isn't just African gays who face difficulties. The Chinese contestant was unable to come to Johannesburg because of anti-gay pressure there, organizers said. Representation was thin from Asia, Eastern Europe and the Middle East—all regions where gay rights are under threat.

In the United States, projects like It Gets Better reach out to young homosexual to help them cope with harassment, a reminder that even in the West, gays are vulnerable. The American Mr. Gay World contestant, Kevin Scott Power, is an elementary school teacher who said even young children experience anti-gay bullying.

Power, who finished fourth on Sunday, said he was not nervous at coming to Africa, despite its homophobic reputation.

"We're all representing the people that don't have the power to stand up," Power told reporters in Johannesburg.

'Hunger Games' again on list of challenged books

By HILLEL ITALIE
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The more popular "The Hunger Games" trilogy becomes, the more reasons some parents and educators have found to question whether it belongs on library shelves.

For the second year in a row, Suzanne Collins' work was among the most "challenged" books, as reported Sunday by the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom. The association defines a challenge as "a formal, written complaint filed with a library or school requesting that a book or other material be restricted or removed because of its content or appropriateness."

In last year's list, when just the title book of the trilogy was in the top 10, complaints included "sexually explicit" and "unsuited to age group and violence." Collins herself acknowledged her dystopian stories were not for everyone, telling The Associated Press at the time that she had heard "people were concerned about the level of violence in the books. That's not unreasonable. They are violent. It's a war trilogy."

For the new study, which also included "Catching Fire" and "Mockingjay," the objections were more varied, and harsher, including "Anti-ethnic; anti-family; insensitivity; offensive language; occult/satanic; violence."

Barbara Jones, director of the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom, thinks anticipation for the "Hunger Games" film led to closer criticism of the books.

"For instance, there was complaining about the choice of actors for the film," Jones says. "You had people saying someone was dark-skinned in the book, but not in the film, or dark-skinned in the film and not in the book. In general, a lot more people were aware of the books and that led to more kinds of complaints."

Collins declined comment through spokeswoman Tracy van Straaten of publisher Scholastic Inc. Van Straaten said Scholastic also would have no comment.

Collins' million-selling novels ranked No. 3 on the association's list, rising from No. 5 last year.

The most challenged works were Lauren Myracle's tween novels "ttyl," ''ttfn," ''l8r" and "g8r," cited for being sexually explicit and "unsuited to age group." Kim Dong Hwa's "The Color of Earth" series was second, challenged for "nudity," ''sex education," being sexually explicit and unsuited to age group.

The library association reported 326 challenges, a slight drop from 348 the year before, although the ALA believes that for every complaint filed several others are unrecorded. The association did not have a number for how many books were actually pulled.

The list included such classics as Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World" ("insensitivity, nudity, racism, religious viewpoint, sexually explicit") and Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird" ("offensive language, racism"). Also cited were Sherman Alexie's "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" ("offensive language, racism, religious viewpoint, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group"), Cecily von Ziegesar's "Gossip Girl" series ("drugs, offensive language, sexually explicit") and Phyllis Reynolds Naylor's "Alice" series (nudity, offensive language, religious viewpoint").

Others mentioned were Sonya Sones' "What My Mother Doesn't Know" ("nudity; offensive language; sexually explicit") and "My Mom's Having A Baby! A Kid's Month-by-Month Guide to Pregnancy," by Dori Hillestad Butler ("nudity, sex education, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group").

'Hunger Games' scores Easter feast with $33.5M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Film fans are still forking over for "The Hunger Games," which took in $33.5 million to lead the box office for a third-straight weekend.

According to studio estimates Sunday, Lionsgate's "The Hunger Games" raised its domestic total to $302.8 million. It easily out-earned two returning favorites, Universal's "American Pie" sequel "American Reunion" and a 3-D version of the blockbuster "Titanic," released domestically by Paramount and overseas by 20th Century Fox.

Both newcomers opened solidly, though. "American Reunion" pulled in $21.5 million, the lowest haul since the 1999 original but still a decent return for a comedy franchise whose last big-screen chapter came nine years ago.

"Titanic" in 3-D reeled in $17.4 million over the weekend, raising its domestic take to $25.7 million since opening Wednesday. That lifts the lifetime domestic gross of James Cameron's mega-hit to $626.5 million.

Starring Jennifer Lawrence as a teen forced to fight other youths in a televised death match, "The Hunger Games" now has topped the domestic gross of each of the "Twilight" movies and all but the first and last of the "Harry Potter" films.

With $25.5 million overseas, "The Hunger Games" raised its international total to $157.1 million. That put its worldwide take at about $460 million.

"The Hunger Games" has helped studios race to a record box-office pace, with domestic revenues for the year now at $2.8 billion, up 20 percent from 2011's, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

"We're heading into summer with a tremendous amount of momentum, led obviously by 'Hunger Games,'" said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "Just about everything seems to be working."

The first big-screen "American Pie" sequel since 2003's "American Wedding," ''American Reunion" brings back all key cast members from the 1999 gross-out hit, including Jason Biggs, Alyson Hannigan, Seann William Scott, Mena Suvari and Tara Reid.

The new sequel had the smallest start since 1999's "American Pie" debuted with $18.7 million. Factoring in inflation, the original movie also sold more tickets than "American Reunion."

Yet adding its $19.3 million earnings in 28 overseas markets, "American Reunion" started well with a worldwide total of $40.8 million.

1. **"The Hunger Games,"** $33.5 million ($25.5 million international).
2. **"American Reunion,"** $21.5 million ($19.3 million international).
3. **"Titanic"** in 3-D, $17.4 million ($35.5 million international).
4. **"Wrath of the Titans,"** $15 million ($43 million international).
5. **"Mirror Mirror,"** $11 million ($11.5 million international).
6. **"21 Jump Street,"** $10.2 million ($2.9 million international).
7. **"Dr. Seuss' the Lorax,"** $5 million ($11.8 million international).
8. **"Salmon Fishing in the Yemen,"** $975,000.
9. **"John Carter,"** $820,000 ($2.6 million international).
10. **"Safe House,"** $581,000.

"We're very content. It's a great launch worldwide," said Nikki Rocco, Universal's head of distribution. "It's a successful reboot of a franchise that we believe in."

"Titanic" follows such past hits as "The Lion King" and "Star Wars: Episode I—The Phantom Menace" to be converted to 3-D.

"This is something that has already been seen by tens of millions of people in the domestic market. To have taken the time and care that Jim Cameron did to re-create it in 3-D and to do $25-plus-million over five days is just a home run," said Don Harris, head of distribution at Paramount.

Cameron's 1997 smash added $35.5 million in 84 overseas markets, putting its 3-D worldwide total at $60.2 million.

Starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet in a tragic romance aboard the doomed ship, "Titanic" won 11 Academy Awards, including best picture. At $1.84 billion worldwide, the film remained the No. 1 modern blockbuster for 12 years until Cameron's "Avatar" bumped it off with $2.8 billion.

The 3-D version has closed the gap a bit, with the lifetime total of "Titanic" now at just over $1.9 billion.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

Queen Elizabeth II grants Camilla new honor

LONDON (AP)—Queen Elizabeth II has appointed the Duchess of Cornwall to the highest female rank in the Royal Victorian Order, Buckingham Palace said Monday.

The announcement that Camilla has been made a Dame Grand Cross comes on the day of her seventh wedding anniversary with Prince Charles, the queen's son.

Awards under the Royal Victorian Order, which was founded in 1896 by Queen Victoria, are given by the queen to people who have served her or the monarchy in a personal way. They are bestowed independently of the prime minister's office.

AP

Britain´s Prince Charles, centre, and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, right, are received by Sweden's Queen Silvia at Stockholm Royal Palace Thursday March 22, 2012.

Once vilified as the old flame who poisoned Charles' first marriage to Princess Diana, Camilla has become an integral member of the royal family since she married the prince on April 9, 2005—eight years after Diana's death.

Since the couple's civil ceremony at the Guildhall in Windsor, the British public has warmed to Camilla and the 64-year-old has carried out hundreds of royal engagements and taken on a wide range of patronages.

She also has traveled extensively with the prince on official visits, including a recent tour of Scandinavia with stops in Copenhagen, Stockholm and Oslo.

Lately, Camilla was seen stepping out with the queen and the former Kate Middleton—who married Prince William—for an appearance in London.

Buckingham Palace said Camilla will be invested with the insignia of her rank at a later date.

Final book of Churchill trilogy coming this fall

NEW YORK (AP)—The third and final volume of the late William Manchester's beloved series on Winston Churchill is coming out this fall, nearly 25 years since the previous book.

In November, Little, Brown and Company will publish "The Last Lion: Winston Spencer Churchill: Defender of the Realm, 1940-1965." The new work was started by Manchester and completed by Paul Reid, a former writer for Cox Newspapers. Manchester, who began the Churchill series in the 1980s, was in poor health during his latter years and asked Reid to take over the project.

Little, Brown spokeswoman Nicole Dewey said Sunday that the first two biographies had sold hundreds of thousands of copies and that the publisher still receives frequent inquiries about the third book.

Manchester died in 2004 at age 82.

Hudson star power to complicate murder trial

CHICAGO(AP)—Accustomed to wearing Vera Wang gowns on red carpets, singing at the Grammys or autographing her weight-loss memoir, Oscar winner Jennifer Hudson will take on a new role under a very different spotlight—in Chicago's drab criminal courts building at the trial of the man charged with murdering her mother, brother and 7-year-old nephew.

The Hollywood star's presence, and the accompanying media hubbub, is bound to affect the proceedings, which begin Monday. That's when presiding Judge Charles Burns plans to start questioning would-be jurors one by one, trying to weed out anyone who could be swayed by Hudson's celebrity status.

Hudson is expected to be at the trial every day once testimony begins, court officials say, and she's on the 300-name list of witnesses who could testify. While the judge will warn prospective jurors to avoid watching TV coverage of the trial, they may see Hudson on "American Idol" on Thursday.

Legal experts widely agree on the No. 1 challenge at trials involving megastars: It's identifying 12 jurors able and willing to assess guilt solely on what they hear in court.

Hudson will need to refrain from overt displays of emotion as potentially starstruck jurors' eyes dart back at her, said Gerald Uelmen, a defense attorney at former football star O.J. Simpson's murder trial.

"The risk is that jurors may be watching her rather than testifying witnesses, and they could be influenced by how she reacts," he said. "She would be well advised not to engage in any facial expressions or outbursts. That could be grounds for a mistrial."

AP

In this Feb. 12, 2012 file photo, Jennifer Hudson performs "I Will Always Love You" during the In Memoriam portion of the 54th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

Unfaithful husband searches for way out of his marriage

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 19 years, but I cannot stay faithful to my wife. I've had a few affairs, visit "massage parlors" on a regular basis and feel my wife deserves better. I want to walk away from our marriage.

We have kids who will be affected, and it will hurt us financially, but I don't feel right staying in a marriage I can't be faithful to. I haven't told my wife about this, but I believe she knows because we haven't been intimate in months. We had discussed divorce several times in the past, but that was before the kids. Please give me some advice.

LIVING A LIE IN THE MID-ATLANTIC

DEAR LIVING A LIE: Feeling and behaving as you do, it would have been better for you to have divorced before you had children. However, now that you do have kids, it's time that you level with your wife.

As you stated, she probably has a good idea that something isn't right. She may prefer to remain married to you until your children are out of the house. Or she may feel that her chances of finding someone else are better if you separate now. You'll never know until you talk to her—and she deserves to know the truth.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am trying to decide who to have as best man at my wedding. I asked my best friend before I got engaged. After the engagement, I received a lot of pressure—and unwanted stress—from my mom to have my brother as best man. After arguing with her for a month straight, I finally gave in and asked my brother. We have never been close. There's no communication and no desire for it. We see each other only during the holidays and have had a forced relationship by Mom since we were teens.

My gut instinct tells me my best friend should be my best man. On the other hand, if I tell my brother he isn't the one anymore, I'm afraid it will be the final dagger in any type of relationship with him and his family. I need your advice on this matter.

GROOM-TO-BE IN MINNESOTA

DEAR GROOM-TO-BE: You're right that having asked your brother to be your best man, you should not rescind the invitation. However, I have good news. Your best friend can still be your best man. According to Emily Post, there can be two best men. She says:

"Though not so common, two chief attendants may be the right solution when you don't want to choose between siblings or close friends. The attendants can share the duties and the fun!"

So there you are. Problem solved.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm dating a man, "Jason," who is a DJ. Lately work has been slow for him, but because he was so popular when he was younger, he finds it hard to accept that he will have to get a 9-to-5 job.

Jason has expressed in the past that he doesn't want to call a 30-year-old his boss and would like to go to school. We hope to get married one day, but I am torn because I don't want to support the household on a wing and a prayer. I do everything I can to encourage him, but his lack of effort is becoming discouraging. How can I explain this without it turning into an argument?

ON THE RECORD IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR ON THE RECORD: Consider this. The longer Jason waits to look for a 9-to-5 job, the younger his bosses will be. Marriage is a partnership. You shouldn't have to support the household on a "wing and a prayer" because Jason is dragging his feet about returning to school or becoming self-supporting. Explain it to him by saying that if he doesn't become more proactive, you will have to consider finding someone who is more ambitious.

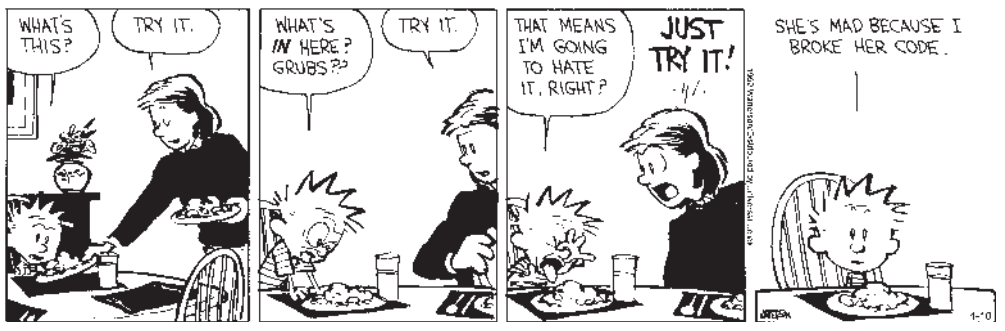
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

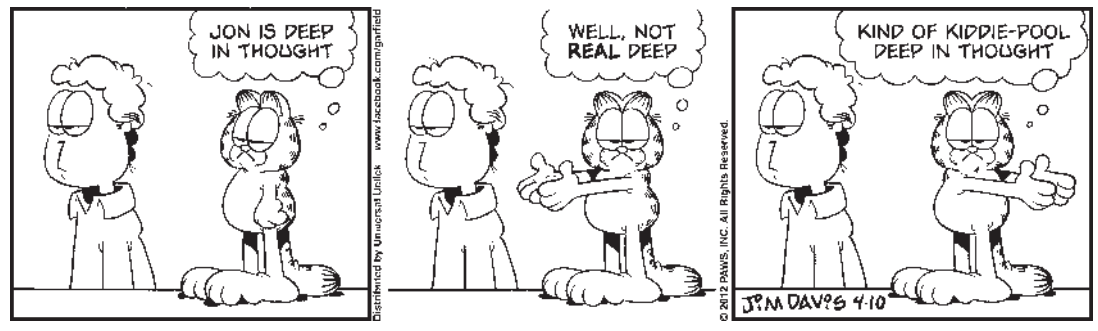
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WHAT'S THIS?
TRY IT.
WHAT'S IN HERE? GRUBS??
TRY IT.
THAT MEANS I'M GOING TO HATE IT, RIGHT?
JUST TRY IT!
SHE'S MAD BECAUSE I BROKE HER CODE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


JON IS DEEP IN THOUGHT
WELL, NOT REAL DEEP
KIND OF KIDDIE-POOL DEEP IN THOUGHT
JIM DAVIS 4-10
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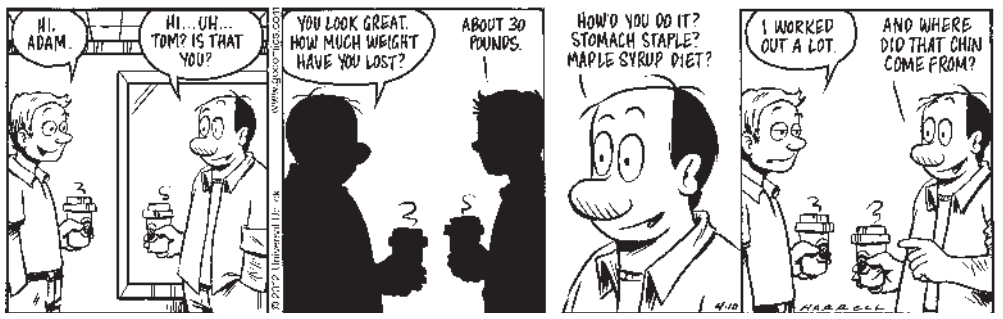
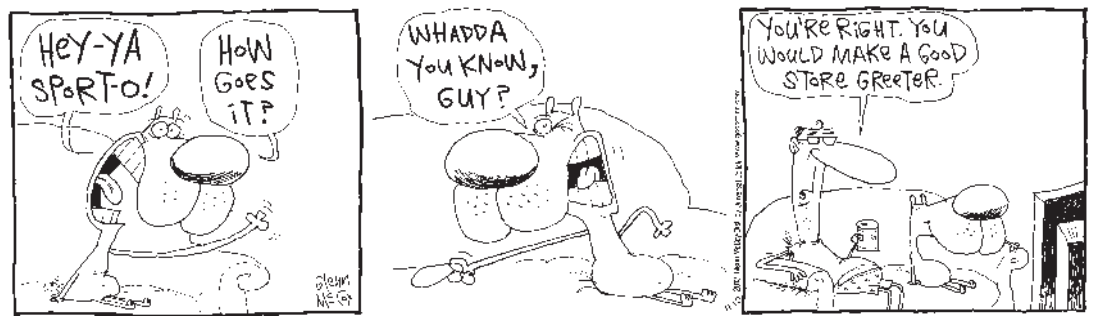
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HI, ADAM.
HI...UH... TOM? IS THAT YOU?
YOU LOOK GREAT. HOW MUCH WEIGHT HAVE YOU LOST?
ABOUT 30 POUNDS.
HOW'D YOU DO IT? STOMACH STAPLE? MAPLE SYRUP DIET?
I WORKED OUT A LOT.
AND WHERE DID THAT CHIN COME FROM?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

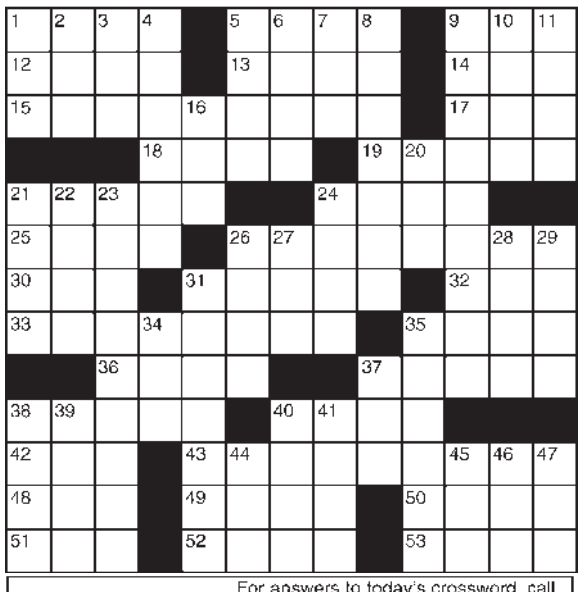
ACROSS
1 Hospital section
5 Nitwit
9 "How I Met Your Mother" network
12 Chills and fever
13 Sandwich cookie
14 Matterhorn, for one
15 Soft yellow cheese
17 Scratch
18 "— in Boots"
19 Driver for hire
21 Took a curved path
24 "Oops"
25 Reddish horse
26 Hinged (on)
30 Doctrine
31 Autumn tools
32 Rage
33 Left the flight
35 Homeless youngster
36 Staffer
37 Thin in tone
38 Suspect's excuse
40 Verve
42 Plead
43 Ventura Freeway city
48 Prohibit
49 Related (to)
50 Watched
51 Reply (Abbr.)
52 Fat
53 Peruse

DOWN
1 Service-woman
2 — Khan
3 Pirates' potable
4 Dig further
5 Moves up and down
6 Raw rocks
7 "— the fields we go"
8 Messes up
9 Phnom Penh resident
10 Spill the beans
11 Agile
16 Kids' pie filling?
20 Landers or Curry
21 Desert-like
22 American Beauty, e.g.
23 Runs for office
24 Newspaper pg.
26 Hamlet, for one
27 — out a living
28 Ireland
29 Challenge
31 Extreme
34 Canadian pol. party
35 Having a stronger bouquet, maybe
37 Pitch
38 "Mamma Mia" group
39 Tilt
40 Eastern potentate
41 Cry from the crow's-nest
44 Alias (Abbr.)
45 Caustic solution
46 Meadow
47 Peculiar

Solution time: 21 mins.

R	O	W	S	■	G	O	V	■	T	S	A	R
A	N	A	T	O	L	I	A	■	H	O	P	E
F	O	R	E	T	E	L	L	■	R	O	S	A
■	■	■	P	I	N	■	K	R	O	N	E	R
W	R	A	P	S	■	D	Y	A	N	■	■	■
H	E	R	E	■	F	O	R	G	E	R	Y	■
Y	E	N	■	E	R	N	I	E	■	O	A	F
■	F	O	R	T	U	N	E	■	P	O	L	E
■	■	■	A	R	I	A	■	W	A	K	E	N
P	R	I	V	E	T	■	E	A	R	■	■	■
L	E	V	I	■	F	O	R	C	E	F	U	L
A	L	A	N	■	U	N	I	O	N	I	Z	E
N	O	N	E	■	L	E	E	■	T	R	I	G

Yesterday's answer 4-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alex Pettyfer, 22; Haley Joel Osment, 24; Shay Mitchell, 25; Mandy Moore, 28.

Happy Birthday: Make change happen. Don't wait for someone else to instigate what happens next. Be the one to step up and make a bold statement. Not everyone will agree, but unless you make waves, you'll be a yes man. Get rid of what isn't working for you anymore and you will have time to present and promote new ventures. Your numbers are 5, 11, 20, 24, 27, 35, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Turn your talents into a moneymaking commodity. A couple of alterations to the way you present what you have to offer is all it will take. Love and romance are in the stars, and emotional matters can be successfully addressed. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't promise what you cannot deliver, especially where money is involved. You are best to underestimate what you have or can offer. Uncover the facts and determine what's required for you to reach your goals before helping someone else excel. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't get angry, be constructive and take care of your responsibilities. Love is in the spotlight, and uncertainty will push you into a make-or-break scenario that must be addressed openly. A couple of subtle changes will help. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't worry about what everyone else is doing. Concentrate on what you have to accomplish and keep moving. A change in philosophy will be dependent on the people you encounter and the way you are treated by your peers. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You will excel by sticking to your budget and keeping things moderate. Don't be afraid to implement new ideas or to step into the spotlight and promote what you have to offer. You will attract both personal and professional attention. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take a wait-and-see approach. You need to play it safe if you don't want to end up being blamed or criticized. Don't make changes at home that may upset loved ones. It's important to feel out a situation before you proceed. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Explore new avenues. Learn whatever you can that will help you secure your earning power. A trip, lecture or research will be eye-opening regarding a project you want to pursue. A move will lead to better opportunities. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Experience will help you make the right choice now. Don't bring emotions into a work-related matter; however, showing off your fun side will help you form better work relationships as well as gain respect and confidence. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Caution must be taken while traveling and communicating. An unfortunate slip of the tongue can lead to a misunderstanding that can cost you emotionally or financially. Make alterations at home that better suit your needs and comfort. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Concentrate on helping others and finding solutions to problems you face personally. Don't try to buy your way in or out of any situation. It's best to know what and whom you are dealing with before making a commitment. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Look at your personal situation and home life, and know what you want to achieve. Love is in the stars, but you must play by the rules and avoid a situation that has the potential to hurt someone. Honesty is the best policy. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Problems will surface with people who matter to you. Clear up any confusion by sticking to the truth. A change is likely to occur, but the end result will be good for you if you maintain your integrity. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are proud, outgoing and worldly. You are courageous and strategic.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1			3			6	9	
				9	4	7	8	
			5			1		
7		6		2	9	5	2	
	4		5					
	3		8					
5	7	1	2					
8	9			7			4	

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	6	8	3	7	1	9	5	4
1	4	5	8	6	9	2	7	3
9	7	3	4	5	2	6	8	1
4	2	9	7	3	8	1	6	5
8	3	6	1	4	5	7	9	2
5	1	7	2	9	6	3	4	8
3	5	1	6	8	7	4	2	9
7	8	2	9	1	4	5	3	6
6	9	4	5	2	3	8	1	7

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RIZZOLI AND ISLES **Solution: 5 letters**

P	S	N	P	T	P	M	S	H	S	H	I	E	L	D
R	A	O	O	R	A	O	E	E	I	K	N	A	R	F
O	S	T	L	T	I	R	L	D	C	R	I	M	E	S
T	H	S	H	V	O	S	G	I	I	R	N	A	E	D
E	A	O	O	O	I	R	O	E	C	C	E	E	B	E
C	N	B	M	P	L	N	I	N	T	E	A	T	U	T
T	G	U	I	P	E	O	Ⓖ	Ⓞ	Ⓐ	Ⓛ	N	L	S	E
I	I	L	C	O	A	E	G	R	U	S	O	A	T	C
V	E	L	I	S	D	S	D	I	T	S	V	M	J	T
E	S	E	D	I	S	S	W	Z	S	E	E	A	O	I
R	A	T	E	T	S	E	B	Z	N	T	L	U	H	V
A	C	L	U	E	S	N	D	O	C	T	O	R	N	E
E	N	E	C	S	I	T	B	L	Y	R	R	A	B	I
F	O	R	E	N	S	I	C	I	H	A	R	M	O	N
S	E	C	N	I	V	W	T	C	O	R	O	N	E	R

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Angie, Barry, Best, Bone, Boston, Bullet, Bust, Case, Clues, Coroner, Crimes, Dean, Deep, Detective, Doctor, Fear, Forensic, Frankie, Goal, Harmon, Hero, Homicide, Jane, John, Leads, Maura, Medical, Notorious, Novel, Opposites, Pathologist, Police, Prison, Protective, Rizzoli, Sasha, Scene, Secrets, Shield, Solving, Target, Team, Tess, Vein, Vince, Witness

Yesterday's Answer: All-Star

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 28 is the "Presidential Edition" featuring all the U.S. presidents and Canadian prime ministers. To order, send $5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Uclick to 55 Accipiter Rd., Ste. 100, Atlanta, GA 30328. Add $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-592-6450. Order online at www.puzzles.com. Contains 70 puzzles. Not available in the UK or Europe.

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Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

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Bore/sow on site.
Call to see - 322-0268

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Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

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2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent. For $200.00 / month. Koblerville, please call 288-0728.

WHATZIT Solution: A vicious circle

AVIS RENT A CAR is looking for highly motivated individuals with great customer service and a friendly and outgoing personality to fill the following positions:

FULL TIME RENTAL SALES AGENTS
- Japanese Speaking preferred
- Must have computer skills

ON CALL PART-TIME AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE DETAILER

Applicants must posses a high school diploma or equivalent, have a valid driver's license, and be willing to work flexible hours.

All applications and resumes can be submitted to our AVIS counter located at the Saipan International Airport. No phone calls please.

AVIS We try harder.

REVOLVING RESTAURANT 360 GREAT VIEWS. INCREDIBLE FOOD

Full Time and Part Time Cook

American Style Restaurant seeking reliable cook with experience to be a part of our team.

Applicants must have experience operating and cooking with Deep Fryer, Oven and Grill.

Applicant must demonstrate knowledge of food preparation, portion control, order expediting and plating.

Special skills such as baking, desserts etc will help us in select the successful candidate

Applicants need to submit Resume's or applications to Room 312, 3rd Flr. MBP, Susupe or fax to 234-1611

Applications must be submitted by April 13th.

Position available immediately. Must be US eligible worker or have current CW-1 Visa

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are currently seeking positive, outgoing individuals for the position of:

JAPAN MARKET ASSISTANT
(Sales & Marketing)

Applicants must be able to perform administrative tasks and have proficient knowledge Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint as well as Japanese software applications. Position requires ability to speak, read, write and translate the Japanese language.

All applications are available at PIC's Security desk at the south end of the hotel. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
Application deadline is **5pm on Wednesday, April 18, 2012**.

PIC Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer

FOR SALE

Aluminum Container (will not rust) Converted to Guest House/Studio

Furnished with split type aircon, built-in shower, vanity with large mirror and separate toilet. Also has sliding patio door with vertical blinds. All in good condition.

Serious inquiries only. Contact Mila at 234-2440

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a thrill to drive, but lacks the extras
Mary Tyler Moore honored for lifetime achievement
Rollers eyeing two trips to PH in 201
'King of Aces' on island through January
SUDOKU
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CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Knicks top Bulls in Rose's return

NEW YORK (AP)—Carmelo Anthony scored a season-high 43 points, hitting a 3-pointer with 8.2 seconds left in overtime, as the New York Knicks spoiled a rusty Derrick Rose's return to the lineup to beat the Chicago Bulls 100-99 on Sunday.

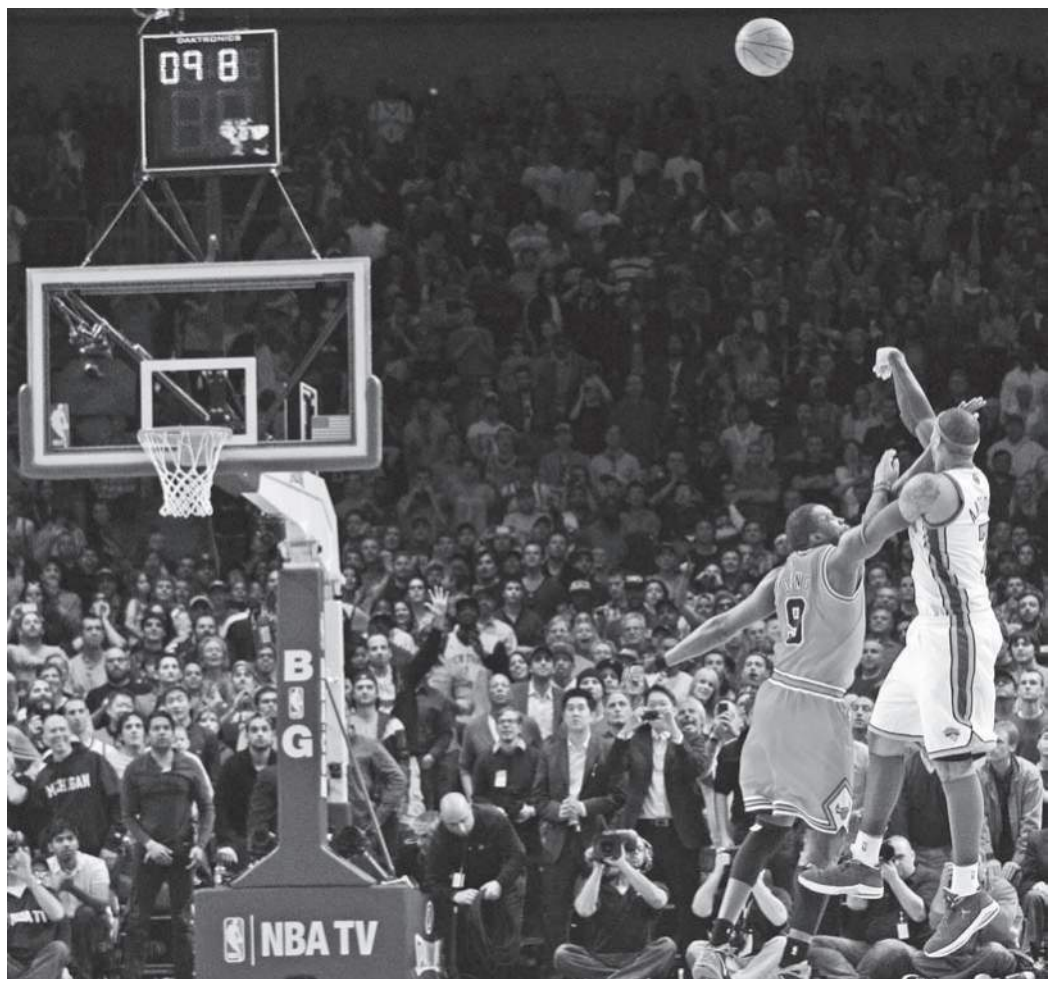
Rose scored 29 points after missing the previous 12 games with a strained right groin, but he shot only 8 of 26 from the field and missed a pair of free throws with 19 seconds left in regulation with the Bulls ahead by three.

Anthony made a 3-pointer eight seconds later to tie it, and scored the final five points of the extra period as the Knicks pulled out a thriller in a possible playoff preview.

The Bulls trailed by 21 in the first quarter, led by 10 in the fourth, then failed to put it away by missing four straight free throws in the final 34 seconds of regulation.

Despite having their starting five together for only the 11th time this season, the Bulls lost for the third time in four games, their NBA-best record falling to 43-14.

The Knicks increased their lead over Milwaukee to one game for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.



AP

New York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony, right, shoots a 3-point basket in the closing seconds of overtime, past Chicago Bulls' Luol Deng during an NBA basketball game, Sunday, April 8, 2012, at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Heat 98, Pistons 75

In Miami, LeBron James scored 26 points, Chris Bosh finished with 22 points and nine rebounds, and Miami steadily pulled away to beat Detroit.

James Jones scored 18 on 6-for-8 shooting from 3-point range for Miami, which played without Dwyane Wade for the 11th time this season. Wade sat out with right ankle soreness, which the team said was caused by an awkward landing on a dunk attempt against Memphis on Friday night.

Detroit rookie Brandon Knight scored 16 for the Pistons.

Miami (40-15) pulled within two games of Chicago (43-14) for the best record in the East.

Celtics 103, 76ers 79

In Boston, Kevin Garnett scored 20 points and Rajon Rondo dished out double-digit assists for his 17th consecutive game, finishing with 15 to help lead Boston over Philadelphia.

Brandon Bass and Avery Bradley each added 18 points, and Paul Pierce had 17 as the Celtics won for the seventh time in nine games, improving their Atlantic Division lead to three games over both the 76ers and Knicks.

Nikola Vucevic had 14 points and Andre Iguodala added 13 for the 76ers, who have dropped 10 of 14 to fall out of first place and are now competing for the final playoff spot in the East. They are tied with the Knicks for seventh place, one game ahead of Milwaukee.

Nets 122, Cavaliers 117, OT

In Newark, New Jersey, Gerald Green scored a season-high 32 points, including a clutch 3-pointer with 36.7 seconds left in regulation and a high-flying dunk in overtime, leading New Jersey to a win over Cleveland.

Anthony Morrow scored 24 points, Deron Williams had 18 points and 10 assists, and Kris Humphries added 16 points and 11 rebounds as the Nets won a season-best third straight at home.

New Jersey also finished with its highest scoring total of the season.

Antawn Jamison scored a season high-tying 34 points, Lester Hudson had 26 and Alonzo Gee added 22 points and 11 rebounds for Cleveland, which lost for the 10th time in 11 games.

Spurs 114, Jazz 104

In San Antonio, Tony Parker scored 28 points and San Antonio won its 11th straight game, beating Utah to maintain its slim lead atop the Western Conference.

Manu Ginobili added 23 points for the Spurs, who are now on their second 11-game win streak—a season best in the NBA.

Al Jefferson led the Jazz with 19 points and 10 rebounds. Utah dropped 1 1/2 games behind Denver for the eighth and final playoff spot with nine games to go.

The Spurs (40-14) have played two more games than the Thunder (41-15).

Thunder 91, Raptors 75

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 23 points and Oklahoma City had a 24-0 run bridging the third and fourth quarters to beat Toronto and end a season-worst three-game losing streak.

Oklahoma City remained percentage points behind San Antonio for first place in the West after the Spurs beat Utah 114-104.

Toronto trailed 58-55 with 6:05 left in the third quarter, but the Raptors didn't score again in the period. Oklahoma City then scored the last 12 points of the quarter and the first 12 of the fourth to take 27-point lead.

Jose Calderon led Toronto with 19 points and DeMar DeRozan added 16 on 6-for-22 shooting.

Rockets 104, Kings 87

In Sacramento, California, Courtney Lee scored 19 of his 25 points in the first half, leading Houston over Sacramento.

Goran Dragic had 15 points and nine assists, and Chase Budinger also scored 15 as Houston won its third straight and fourth in five games.

Terrence Williams had a season-high 21 points and eight rebounds for the Kings, losers of four straight and nine of 11. Rookie guard Jimmer Fredette made three 3-pointers and finished with 17 points in a season-high 37 minutes.

Budinger scored 10 points in the final quarter.

Houston led by 11 points after the first quarter and took a 58-43 lead into the break. Lee got going early, scoring 17 points in the first quarter when he made 7 of 8 shots, including all three 3-point attempts.

Tebow draws big crowd to Texas Easter service

GEORGETOWN, Texas (AP)—Tim Tebow drew a crowd of about 15,000 to an outdoor Easter church service Sunday, telling the gathering it's important to be outspoken about faith while admonishing athletes about not being better role models.

"In Christianity, it's the Pope and Tebow right now," Celebration Church pastor Joe Champion he said. "We didn't have enough room to handle the Pope."

Tebow—devout Christian, backup NFL quarterback and cultural phenomenon—has a flock of admirers drawn as much to his religious leanings as his Heisman Trophy skills.

Tebow told them he welcomed the attention on his convictions as well as the "Tebowing" prayer pose he often strikes on the field because it puts his faith and prayer in the public conversation.

"It's being talked about," he said. "That's exciting."

Some at the "Easter on the Hill" morning service under sunny skies about 20 miles north of Austin drove more 100 miles to hear Tebow speak. The service took on the feel of a rock concert with more than a 100 school buses shuttling people to the sprawling mega-church campus from local shopping centers and the nearby college.

The service was peppered with lively Christian rock songs and Tebow took the large stage to cheers from those who could see him while others toward the back watched on massive video screens. He sat for a 20-minute interview with Champion to talk about his faith and its role in his public life.

"It's OK to be outspoken about your faith," Tebow said.

He also took a shot at professional athletes who insist they are not role models.

"Yes you are. You're just not a good one," Tebow said.

Champion asked Tebow what he thought needed to change culturally in America.

"First and foremost is what this country was based on: one nation under God. The more that we can get back to that," Tebow said to applause.

Although church officials had said they typically get their biggest crowds on Easter, Tebow was clearly the big draw Sunday. Several hundred started heading toward the exits after Tebow spoke, not waiting for Champion's main Sunday sermon so they could avoid the 80-degree heat and beat the traffic.

Some couldn't wait for the official 8 a.m. opening to the church grounds and showed up hours early.

Debbie Sandoval and her husband and two sons arrived before sunrise. They wore Tebow's Jets jerseys and set up camp close the large soundstage with a row of chairs.

"I love that boy. ... He's like my third son," said Sandoval, who is not a regular member of the church but wasn't going to miss a chance to hear Tebow speak. A self-described "lifelong Broncos fan," Sandoval said she became a Jets fan because of Tebow. The quarterback led the Broncos to the playoffs last season and was acquired by the Jets in a trade March 21.

"Everything about this young man's extraordinary life is special," Sandoval said.

Amanda O'Hara drove about 100 miles from San Antonio on Saturday and got to the church about 4:30 a.m. "to be one of the first ones here."

"I only got about four hours sleep, I was so excited," O'Hara said. "He doesn't hide who he is. Parents should see him as a role model."

The crow included people dressed in Easter bunny costumes and one person dressed as the Sesame Street character Elmo. About an hour before the service, Elmo dropped to a knee with a toddler boy to mimic Tebow's prayer pose.

Media access to the event was tightly controlled inside the roped off field. Reporters and photographers were required to have an escort when walking through the crowd before the service. Television cameras were allowed to record only a portion of Tebow's speech and no live video streaming of the service was permitted.

Church officials initially expected up to 20,000 and said Tebow's appearance on Easter Sunday was coincidental. Church spokeswoman Tara Wall said it was Tebow who reached out to Champion with a request to appear and Sunday was the best date available.

Mike Benaglio and his wife, Debbie, sat on a blanket.

"I'm a fan of any pro athlete who stands up for his faith," he said. "We're thrilled to be part of this. It's not about football. Whatever gets more people over to the cross, I'm in favor of."

Warren Sapp files for bankruptcy in Florida

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—Former NFL star Warren Sapp owes more than $6.7 million to creditors and back child support and alimony, according to a Chapter 7 bankruptcy filing in South Florida.

Sapp's $6.45 million in assets includes 240 pairs of Jordan athletic shoes worth almost $6,500, a $2,250 watch and a lion skin rug worth $1,200. He also reported losing his 2002 Super Bowl ring with the Bucs and his 1991 national championship ring from the University of Miami.

The court documents were filed in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Fort Lauderdale on March 30. TMZ.com first reported the filing. A phone message and e-mail left Saturday with his attorney, Chad Pugatch, were not immediately returned.

Sapp's average monthly income is $115,881, according to the filings, and includes $45,000 for a final contract payment with Showtime, $48,000 for an appearance with CCA Sports and $18,675 as an advance for a book deal. His contract with the NFL Network ends in August, the filings show, and it was unknown if the contract will be renewed.

Sapp, a former defensive tackle for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Oakland Raiders during his 13-year NFL career, was also once a contestant on ABC's "Dancing with the Stars."

He was arrested in 2010 following an alleged domestic violence incident at a Miami Beach hotel. He would have faced one count of misdemeanor domestic battery, but prosecutors declined to prosecute saying in court documents that there were inconsistencies in the victim's statements and evidence.

Avila's homer gives Tigers win over Red Sox

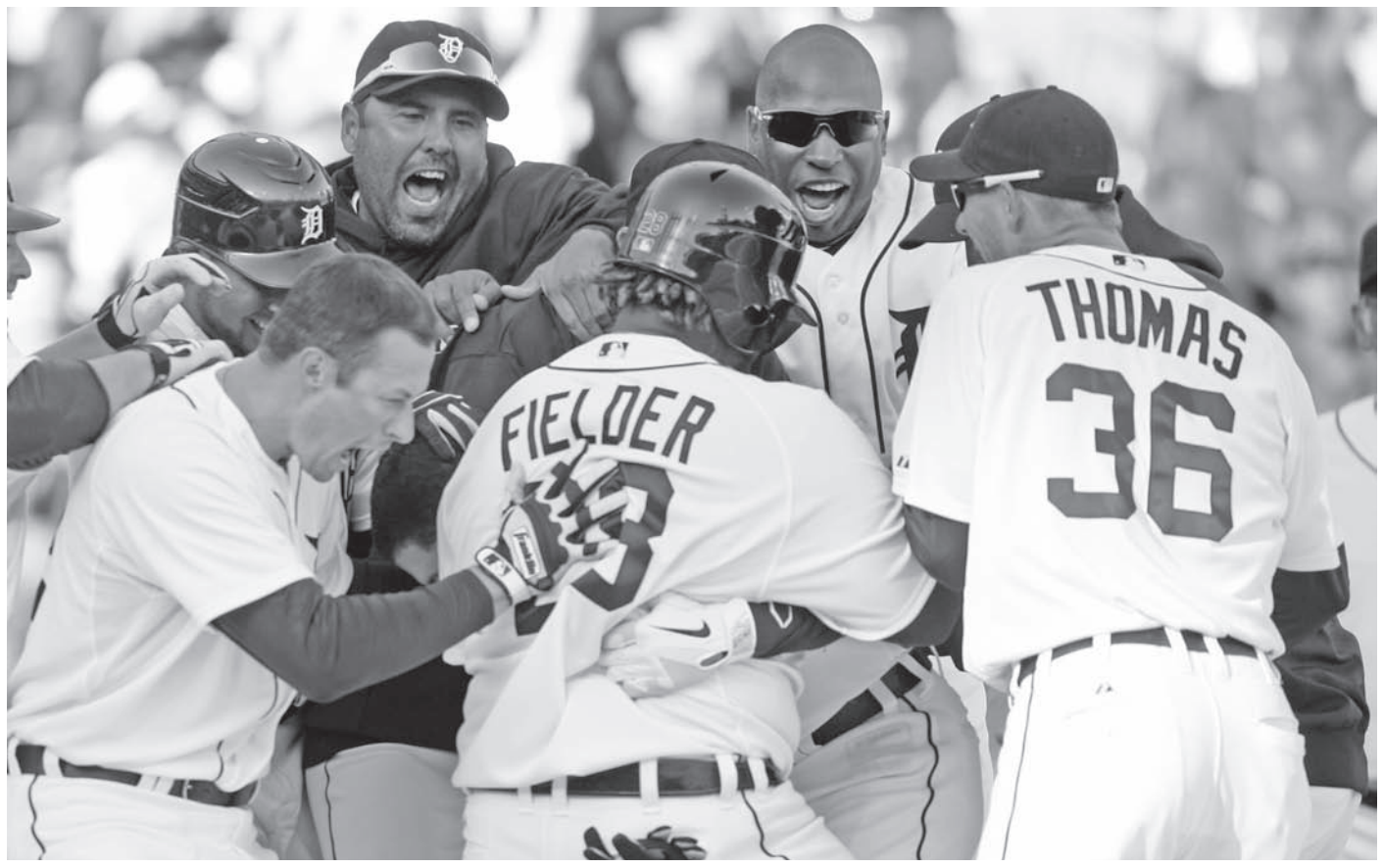
DETROIT (AP)—Alex Avila's two-run homer with two outs in the bottom of the 11th inning gave the Detroit Tigers a wild 13-12 victory over Boston on Sunday, leaving the Red Sox winless in three games under new manager Bobby Valentine.

Detroit trailed 10-7 when Miguel Cabrera tied the game with a three-run shot off Alfredo Aceves in the ninth. Boston then scored twice in the 11th, but Mark Melancon (0-2) couldn't hold the lead.

Cabrera and Prince Fielder singled before a wild pitch sent Cabrera to third and Delmon Young's sacrifice fly cut the margin in half. Avila followed with a drive to right and Cody Ross tried to make a leaping catch, but the ball appeared to hit a gate just above the wall before caroming back onto the field.

Duane Below (2-0) got one out for the win—even though Detroit manager Jim Leyland said he wouldn't be available—and the Tigers completed a three-game sweep in a game that lasted 4 hours, 45 minutes.

Boston is without newly acquired closer Andrew Bailey, who had surgery on his right thumb. Melancon and Aceves are the primary candidates to close in Bailey's absence, and both blew saves on Sunday.



AP

Detroit Tigers players, including Prince Fielder (28) and Clete Thomas (36), surround Alex Avila after two-run home run in the 11th inning of a baseball game against the Boston Red Sox pm Sunday, April 8, 2012, in Detroit.

Rays 3, Yankees 0

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Jeremy Hellickson came within one out of a three-hitter and Tampa Bay beat New York to complete a season-opening sweep and match the best start in club history.

Carlos Pena and Jeff Keppinger homered for Tampa Bay, which also started with three consecutive wins in 2002.

New York is 0-3 for the first time since 1998, when it went on to win 114 games and the World Series.

Celebrating his 25th birthday, Hellickson (1-0) limited the Yankees to three doubles. The 2011 AL Rookie of the Year walked four, struck out four and was one out from his third career complete game and second shutout when he was replaced by Fernando Rodney after 118 pitches.

Rodney, an offseason addition to the bullpen, got the win in Friday's season opener and then earned saves in each of the next two games.

Pena homered off starter Phil Hughes (0-1) in the third. Another offseason acquisition, Keppinger hit a solo shot off Boone Logan in the sixth.

Orioles 3, Twins 1

In Baltimore, Jason Hammel took a no-hitter into the eighth inning in his Baltimore debut and the Orioles beat Minnesota for a three-game sweep.

Hammel (1-0) faced the minimum 21 batters through seven innings, allowing two walks, before Justin Morneau ended the no-hit bid with a leadoff double off the right-field wall in the eighth.

Josh Willingham followed with an RBI double and Sean Burroughs drew a one-out walk before Hammel finished by striking out Luke Hughes and retiring Ben Revere on a fly to right.

Jim Johnson worked the ninth to earn his second save and complete the two-hitter.

J.J. Hardy homered for the Orioles, who have won seven straight over the Twins by a collective score of 39-9.

The Twins scored only five runs in the series.

Twins starter Anthony Swarzak (0-1) performed admirably in place of Liam Hendriks, hospitalized over the weekend with apparent food poisoning. Swarzak, normally a long reliever, gave up one run and four hits in five innings.

Royals 7, Angels 3

In Anaheim, California, Eric Hosmer and Billy Butler homered and drove in three runs apiece, and Kansas City beat Los Angeles to take two of three in their season-opening series.

Jonathan Sanchez (1-0) got through five innings to win his first start with the Royals, who dampened the revamped Angels' much-hyped home debut with two victories after getting shut out on opening day.

Albert Pujols went 2 for 3 with a double and two walks, driving in his first run for the Angels with a first-inning groundout. Los Angeles' new $240 million slugger went 3 for 10 with two doubles in his first three games at Angel Stadium.

Vernon Wells homered in the eighth, but Ervin Santana (0-1) yielded seven hits and six runs while failing to get out of the sixth inning.

With two on, Jonathan Broxton struck out Torii Hunter, Wells and Kendrys Morales for an impressive finish to his first save for the Royals.

Indians 4, Blue Jays 3

In Cleveland, Carlos Santana hit two home runs on his 26th birthday, Derek Lowe pitched seven strong innings and Cleveland beat Toronto for its first win.

Santana opened the second inning with a drive to center. He connected a second time off Joel Carreno (0-1) in the fifth, a two-run shot to right that broke a 2-all tie.

It was Santana's second career multihomer game. On his last four birthdays, including two years in the minors, Santana is 10 for 17 with five homers and 13 RBIs.

Lowe (1-0) got 15 outs on grounders and allowed two unearned runs in his Indians debut. Chris Perez pitched a shaky ninth for the save. Toronto loaded the bases, but Perez got slugger Jose Bautista to pop out to end it.

Rangers 5, White Sox 0

In Arlington, Texas, Matt Harrison pitched six scoreless innings while Josh Hamilton, Adrian Beltre and David Murphy homered for the Texas Rangers, who wrapped up their season-opening series with a 5-0 victory over the Chicago White Sox.

Hamilton's first homer of the season was a 441-foot blast that landed in the second deck of seats high above the Rangers bullpen in right-center field. That was leading off the sixth against Gavin Floyd (0-1), putting Texas up 4-0 right after Harrison threw his last pitch.

Harrison (1-0) worked out of a jam in the top of the sixth when A.J. Pierzynski struck out with two runners on base.

The two-time defending AL champions took two of three in the weekend series against Chicago, which played its first games under new manager Robin Ventura. The White Sox have three games in Cleveland before their home opener Friday against Detroit.

Diamondbacks 7, Giants 6

In Phoenix, Ryan Roberts and Lyle Overbay hit consecutive two-out homers off Matt Cain and the Arizona Diamondbacks tied a franchise record by rallying from six runs down to beat the San Francisco Giants and sweep the season-opening three-game series.

Giants manager Bruce Bochy was ejected for arguing home plate umpire Mike DiMuro's call that catcher Buster Posey missed the plate on a forceout, a ruling that allowed what proved to be the winning run to score in the seventh inning.

Posey hit his first home run in nearly a year to help the Giants take a 6-0 lead through three innings.

Wade Miley (1-0) pitched four scoreless innings in relief of starter Josh Collmenter to get the win. Jeremy Affeldt (0-1) allowed two runs while getting just one out.

Mets 7, Braves 5

In New York, Jonathon Niese took a no-hitter into the seventh inning in his first start since signing a rich contract and the New York Mets completed a season-opening sweep of Atlanta.

Niese (1-0) allowed just two balls out of the infield through six innings and retired 15 in a row before walking Dan Uggla leading off the seventh. On the next pitch, Niese's 99th of the game, Freddie Freeman singled cleanly to right.

Pitching for the first time since the Mets gave him a $25.5 million, five-year deal, Niese allowed four runs—two earned—and two hits in six-plus innings with seven strikeouts and two walks.

Mike Minor (0-1) gave up six runs, six hits and four walks in five-plus innings.

Pirates 5, Phillies 4

In Pittsburgh, Andrew McCutchen singled home pinch-runner Josh Harrison with two outs in the ninth inning to lift the Pirates over Philadelphia.

McCutchen finished with three hits, none bigger than his smash off the center-field wall against reliever David Herndon (0-1), allowing Harrison to waltz home from third.

Joel Hanrahan (1-0) pitched a perfect ninth for Pittsburgh, which beat the five-time defending NL East champions in its final at-bat for the second time in less than 24 hours.

Pedro Alvarez homered and Casey McGehee hit two doubles for the Pirates.

Reds 6, Marlins 5

In Cincinnati, Scott Rolen drove in the winning run in the ninth inning with a sharp infield single that third baseman Hanley Ramirez failed to handle, lifting the Reds to a comeback win over Miami.

Jay Bruce started the rally with his second home run of the game and third of the season, an opposite-field drive into the left-center field seats that cost Marlins new closer Heath Bell (0-1) a save in his first opportunity.

Left-hander Aroldis Chapman (1-0) pitched two shutout innings of relief for the win.

Cubs 4, Nationals 3

In Chicago, Jeff Samardzija dominated into the ninth inning, outpitching Jordan Zimmermann, and the Chicago Cubs beat Washington for their first win of the Theo Epstein era.

Samardzija (1-0) was simply spectacular in his sixth career start, allowing four hits and an earned run. He struck out eight without a walk as the Cubs shook off two tough losses to start the season.

Washington's Adam LaRoche hit a two-run homer in the ninth after Starlin Castro made a two-out error to extend the inning.

Zimmermann (0-1) held the Cubs to two runs—one earned—and six hits before being lifted for a pinch hitter in the eighth.

Cardinals 9, Brewers 3

In Milwaukee, Lance Lynn pitched two-hit ball into the seventh inning and St. Louis beat the Brewers, taking two out of three from their NL Central rivals to start the season.

Ryan Braun hit his first home run of the year for the Brewers, a solo shot with the game well out of reach in the ninth.

It was the third career start for Lynn (1-0), who played a key relief role during the Cardinals' championship run last season. Lynn gave up one run and struck out a career-high eight while walking only one in 6 2-3 innings.

Randy Wolf (0-1) threw 108 pitches in five innings for the Brewers, giving up three runs and nine hits with a walk and seven strikeouts.

Astros 3, Rockies 2

In Houston, Brian Bogusevic drove in the winning run after Jose Altuve scored on Jordan Pacheco's throwing error to tie it in the eighth inning and Houston beat Colorado.

Reliever Rex Brothers (0-1) got the loss, spoiling the return of Juan Nicasio from a broken neck.

Nicasio allowed five hits and one run in seven innings in his first start since breaking his neck when he fell after being hit in the head by a line drive on August 5.

Former Astros ace Brett Myers pitched a scoreless ninth for the save in his first appearance as Houston's closer.

Wilton Lopez (1-0) got the last two outs of the eighth for the win.

Padres 8, Dodgers 4

In San Diego, Chase Headley hit a grand slam and Andy Parrino had his first big league homer for San Diego, who beat Los Angeles to avoid a four-game sweep.

The Padres had their second three-error game of the series and have committed eight in four games. Clayton Richard (1-0) made two errors.

Richard's only other mistake in seven dominant innings was allowing Matt Kemp's two-run homer in the sixth.

Aaron Harang (0-1), who led his hometown Padres with 14 wins last year before signing with the Dodgers as a free agent, allowed four runs—three earned—on seven hits in 4 1-3 innings.

WATSON

From Page 28

here talking to you with a green jacket on."

His amazing shot in the playoff settled 10 feet from the hole, setting up a simple par for the win.

Lost in all the commotion was Oosthuizen making what is commonly called the rarest shot in golf—an albatross—when his 4-iron from 253 yards on the par-5 second hole landed on the front of the green, took the slope and rolled some 90 feet into the cup for a 2.

Oosthuizen had never made a double eagle in his life.

His Masters ended by watching a shot he didn't know existed.

After hitting short of the 10th green in the playoff, he was in the fairway and could only see a trail of fans leading into the woods.

"I had no idea where he was," Oosthuizen said. "Where I stood from, when the ball came out, it looked like a curve ball. Unbelievable shot. That shot he hit definitely won him the tournament."

Watson, who made four straight birdies on the back nine and closed with a 4-under 68, made it all sound so simple. Maybe it's because he has hit so many shots like that before. Maybe it's because he is one of the few players who doesn't have a swing coach, and never has.

"Hooked it about 40 yards, hit about 15 feet off the ground until it got under the tree and then started rising," Watson said. "Pretty easy."

The hard part was holding back tears.

He was blubbering hard on the 10th green, shoulders heaving and face contorted, for so many reasons. Just two weeks ago, he and his wife adopted a baby boy, Caleb. The first person on the green was his mother - his father died right after the Ryder Cup in 2010. He held her tight and cried some more.

As incredible as it all seemed, Gerry "Bubba" Watson, Jr., the powerful lefty with a million shots at his disposal, was a major champion.

"I never got this far in my dreams," Watson said in Butler cabin, where defending champion Charl Schwartzel helped him into the green jacket. "It's a blessing. To go home to my new son, it's going to be fun."

Oosthuizen was trying to join Gene Sarazen in the 1935 Masters as the only major champions to win with a double eagle in the final round. The former British Open champion made one clutch putt after another on the back nine, none more important than a 4-footer on the 18th for a 69 to force the playoff.

Both had a good look at birdie at No. 18 on the first extra hole and missed.

Watson, dressed all in white and using a pink driver, hooked his tee shot on the 10th into the trees, and it appeared he would have no shot at reaching the green.

Walking down the fairway toward an uncertain lie, he and caddie Ted Scott recalled their credo - "If I have a swing, I've got a shot."

Among his idols in golf are Seve Ballesteros, who built a career on magical escapes like this one. It was the first Masters since Ballesteros died last May. Watson also admires Phil Mickelson, who never saw a flag that frightened him.

"I attack. I always attack," Watson said. "I don't like to go to the center of the greens. I want to hit the incredible shot. Who doesn't? That's why we play the game of golf, to pull off the amazing shot."

They finished at 10-under 278, two shots ahead of four players who kept it close and made the Masters as compelling as ever.

Mickelson, playing in the final group for the fourth time, recovered from a triple bogey on the par-3 fourth hole and still managed to stay in the game. He could only make two-putt birdies on the two par 5s on the back and shot 72.

"It's disappointing that I didn't grab that fourth green jacket," said Mickelson, whose wife and three kids flew in from San Diego on Sunday. "It's disappointing that I didn't make it happen on the back nine and get the putts to fall, even though I felt like I was hitting them pretty good. I gave them all good chances. I just couldn't quite get them to go."

Lee Westwood of England ran off three straight birdies, but the last one hurt. He had an 8-foot eagle putt to tie for the lead on the 15th and missed it, and a final birdie on the 18th gave him a 68 and only made it look close.

"I don't feel like giving up just yet," said Westwood, who had his seventh top-3 finish in a major since the 2008 U.S. Open.

Matt Kuchar tied for the lead with a short eagle putt on the 15th, then bogeyed the 16th for a 69. Peter Hanson of Sweden, who had a one-shot lead going into the final round, didn't make a birdie until the 15th hole. He closed with a 73.

Watson, a 33-year-old from Bagdad, Fla., in the Panhandle, won for the fourth time in his career and moves to No. 4 in the world, making him the highest-ranked American in golf. He became the fifth left-hander to win the Masters in the last 10 years.

And he created a legion of fans—especially in Georgia, where he returned to school to get his degree—who chanted, "Bubba! Bubba! Bubba!" as he hugged everyone he could find on the 10th green.

"I don't play the sport for fame. I don't try to win tournaments for fame," Watson said. "I don't do any of that. It's just me. I'm just Bubba. I goof around. I joke around.

"I just want to be me and play golf."

Tiger Woods used to play practice rounds with Watson at the majors because he was intrigued how a guy who has never had a coach could make the ball move any direction he wanted.

Watson hasn't had a lesson since he was 10. His father taught him the basic grip and basic swing, and Watson took it from there. The challenge has always been figuring out the game by himself. "I just swing funny, and somehow it works," he once said.

Woods was among those who congratulated Watson on Twitter before the trophy presentation.

"Congrats (at)bubbawatson. Fantastic creativity. Now how creative will the champions dinner be next year?" he tweeted.

Oosthuizen was trying to become only the sixth player to have won majors at Augusta National and St. Andrews—two of the most revered courses in golf—and almost got it done.

He stayed in the lead with a tricky par putt from 10 feet on the 14th and a 7-foot birdie putt on the 15th, but Watson caught him by making his fourth straight birdie on the back nine, a tee shot into 4 feet on the 16th.

Both hung on for pars the rest of the way.

Woods went from the favorite to not even a factor on the weekend. He closed with a birdie on the 18th for a 74 and had his highest score ever at the Masters as a pro, finishing at 5-over 293—15 shots out of the lead.

This, from a guy who only two weeks ago won by five shots at Bay Hill, presumably signaling a return.

"It was an off week at the wrong time," Woods said.

He tied for 40th with U.S. Open champion Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland, also favored to contend. McIlroy was one shot out of the lead after two rounds, then had a 77-76 weekend.

Woods and McIlroy were expected to be a big part of the show. This being Augusta, the show managed to go on. There simply is no greater theater in golf than the Masters, and it lasted all day.

An ace for Bo Van Pelt on the 16th—the second straight year he has made two eagles on the back nine—for a tournament-best 64. An ace for Adam Scott on the same hole, sending him to a 66.

The loudest cheer was for Oosthuizen's albatross.

Hanson was sizing up a difficult chip from right of the first green when Augusta erupted in cheers from down below. No one was sure what it meant until Hanson and Mickelson hit their tee shots on the par-5 second, glanced over at the white leaderboard behind the eighth green and saw that Oosthuizen had gone from 7 under to 10 under ahead of them.

Hanson made two quick bogeys and never caught back up. Mickelson's tournament might have ended on the fourth hole with one swing, one bad bounce off the bleachers, and two straight right-handed shots that led to triple bogey.

"Oh, no," Mickelson said as his tee shot struck the grandstand and caromed into the woods. He could have gone back to the tee and played his third shot. Instead, he tried to chop out of the trees from the right side and barely moved it a yard. He tried the same shot again and slapped it to a muddy patch of grass. From there he went into the bunker, and triple bogey was the best he could do.

Kuchar made a late run, but this back nine—plus two extra holes—ultimately belonged to Watson and Oosthuizen. And when it was over, austere Augusta National had a guy named "Bubba" in a green jacket.

OOSTHUIZEN

From Page 28

taken over for the green jacket ceremony. Security led him back through the clubhouse, where a group of fans greeted him with applause.

Not so fast.

Beginning on 18, Oosthuizen thought he had it won on the first playoff hole. His approach from 150 yards out curled down and stopped 15 feet from the cup. The putt looked true as it rolled but it slid along the upper edge of the cup and refused to drop.

Oosthuizen's knees buckled, and he buried his face in his hands.

"I thought it was in. There was no way that could stop turning," he said. "It turned the whole way, and about a foot short of the hole just stopped turning. So you know, I thought it was over by then."

But Watson missed his birdie putt, too, and they moved on to No. 10, the second playoff hole. When Watson launched his tee shot so far right it landed behind the gallery, Oosthuizen saw another opportunity.

"And I like the tee shot on 10. So after he hit it in the trees there, I felt confident and just probably spun a bit out of it, catching it off the heel," he said. "It just left me a lot further back than I wanted to be."

He left himself short on his second shot, then flew the green. When Watson hooked his shot out of trouble and onto the green, Oosthuizen was all but finished.

"He must have a great feel of the game," Oosthuizen said.

SENIOR

From Page 27

Quinton Deleon Guerrero. Sidiro Tebuteb then finished the frame with an RBI double.

The A's answered with a run off a passed ball in the bottom frame, but left the bases loaded and remained held in check for the next three innings.

The Legals added two runs in the fourth off errors and an RBI walk, while the A's brought around its last run late in the fifth frame.

They slammed the door in the top of the sixth with five runs off four hits. Dwayne Reyes stole home, Jeffrey Castro came in off a fielder's choice, and Deleon Guerrero bashed a two-RBI base hit before being waved in by Tebuteb.

Winning pitcher Vincent Ogo stepped to the rubber at the start of the second inning and gave up one run off three hits and three walks with six strikeouts through five innings.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	32	24	.571	–
New York	29	27	.518	3
Philadelphia	29	27	.518	3
New Jersey	21	37	.362	12
Toronto	20	37	.351	12 1/2

Southeast Division

x-Miami	40	15	.727	–
Atlanta	34	23	.596	7
Orlando	33	23	.589	7 1/2
Washington	12	44	.214	28 1/2
Charlotte	7	47	.130	32 1/2

Central Division

x-Chicago	43	14	.754	–
Indiana	34	22	.607	8 1/2
Milwaukee	28	28	.500	14 1/2
Detroit	21	35	.375	21 1/2
Cleveland	18	36	.333	23 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

x-San Antonio	40	14	.741	–
Memphis	32	23	.582	8 1/2
Houston	31	25	.554	10
Dallas	31	26	.544	10 1/2
New Orleans	15	41	.268	26

Northwest Division

y-Oklahoma City	41	15	.732	–
Denver	30	26	.536	11
Utah	29	28	.509	12 1/2
Portland	27	30	.474	14 1/2
Minnesota	25	32	.439	16 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	35	22	.614	–
L.A. Clippers	34	22	.607	1/2
Phoenix	29	27	.518	5 1/2
Golden State	22	33	.400	12
Sacramento	19	38	.333	16

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

New York 100, Chicago 99, OT
Boston 103, Philadelphia 79
Miami 98, Detroit 75
New Jersey 122, Cleveland 117, OT
Oklahoma City 91, Toronto 75
San Antonio 114, Utah 104
Houston 104, Sacramento 87

MLB STANDINGS

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	3	0	1.000	–
Tampa Bay	3	0	1.000	–
Toronto	2	1	.667	1
Boston	0	3	.000	3
New York	0	3	.000	3

Central Division

Detroit	3	0	1.000	–
Kansas City	2	1	.667	1
Chicago	1	2	.333	2
Cleveland	1	2	.333	2
Minnesota	0	3	.000	3

West Division

Seattle	3	1	.750	–
Texas	2	1	.667	1/2
Los Angeles	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Oakland	1	3	.250	2

East Division

New York	3	0	1.000	–
Washington	2	1	.667	1
Philadelphia	1	2	.333	2
Miami	1	3	.250	2 1/2
Atlanta	0	3	.000	3

Central Division

St. Louis	3	1	.750	–
Cincinnati	2	1	.667	1/2
Houston	2	1	.667	1/2
Pittsburgh	2	1	.667	1/2
Chicago	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Milwaukee	1	2	.333	1 1/2

West Division

Arizona	3	0	1.000	–
Los Angeles	3	1	.750	1/2
Colorado	1	2	.333	2
San Diego	1	3	.250	2 1/2
San Francisco	0	3	.000	3

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Mets 7, Atlanta 5
Cincinnati 6, Miami 5
Pittsburgh 5, Philadelphia 4
Houston 3, Colorado 2
St. Louis 9, Milwaukee 3
Chicago Cubs 4, Washington 3
San Diego 8, L.A. Dodgers 4
Arizona 7, San Francisco 6
Detroit 13, Boston 12, 11 innings
Cleveland 4, Toronto 3
Baltimore 3, Minnesota 1
Tampa Bay 3, N.Y. Yankees 0
Kansas City 7, L.A. Angels 3
Texas 5, Chicago White Sox 0

MASTERS SCORES

AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP) – Scores Sunday from the Masters, played at the 7,435-yard, par-72 Augusta National Golf Club. Purse: $8 million

FINAL ROUND

x-Bubba Watson (600), $1,440,000	69-71-70-68–278
Louis Oosthuizen (330), $864,000	68-72-69-69–278
Peter Hanson, $384,000	68-74-65-73–280
Matt Kuchar (148), $384,000	71-70-70-69–280
Phil Mickelson (148), $384,000	74-68-66-72–280
Lee Westwood (148), $384,000	67-73-72-68–280
Ian Poulter (100), $268,000	72-72-70-69–283
Padraig Harrington (88), $232,000	71-73-68-72–284
Justin Rose (88), $232,000	72-72-72-68–284
Adam Scott (88), $232,000	75-70-73-66–284
Jim Furyk (77), $200,000	70-73-72-70–285
Fred Couples (65), $156,800	72-67-75-72–286
Sergio Garcia (65), $156,800	72-68-75-71–286
Hunter Mahan (65), $156,800	72-72-68-74–286
Graeme McDowell (65), $156,800	75-72-71-68–286
Kevin Na (65), $156,800	71-75-72-68–286
Ben Crane (56), $124,000	69-73-72-73–287
Bo Van Pelt (56), $124,000	73-75-75-64–287
Charles Howell III (50), $96,960	72-70-74-72–288
Fredrik Jacobson (50), $96,960	76-68-70-74–288
Francesco Molinari, $96,960	69-75-70-74–288
Geoff Ogilvy (50), $96,960	74-72-71-71–288
Brandt Snedeker (50), $96,960	72-75-68-73–288
Jason Dufner (46), $70,400	69-70-75-75–289
Anders Hansen, $70,400	76-72-73-68–289
Paul Lawrie, $70,400	69-72-72-76–289
Keegan Bradley (42), $56,800	71-77-73-69–290
Jonathan Byrd (42), $56,800	72-71-72-75–290
Rickie Fowler (42), $56,800	74-74-72-70–290
Vijay Singh (42), $56,800	70-72-76-72–290
Scott Stallings (42), $56,800	70-77-70-73–290
Angel Cabrera (37), $45,280	71-78-71-71–291
Luke Donald (37), $45,280	75-73-75-68–291
Zach Johnson (37), $45,280	70-74-75-72–291
Sean O'Hair (37), $45,280	73-70-71-77–291
Nick Watney (37), $45,280	71-71-72-77–291
Sang-Moon Bae (33), $37,600	75-71-69-77–292
Thomas Bjorn, $37,600	73-76-74-69–292
Bill Haas (33), $37,600	72-74-76-70–292
Aaron Baddeley (30), $32,000	71-71-77-74–293
Rory McIlroy (30), $32,000	71-69-77-76–293
Henrik Stenson (30), $32,000	71-71-70-81–293
Tiger Woods (30), $32,000	72-75-72-74–293
Kevin Chappell (26), $26,400	71-76-71-76–294
Martin Kaymer, $26,400	72-75-75-72–294
Webb Simpson (26), $26,400	72-74-70-78–294
Ross Fisher, $22,560	71-77-73-74–295
Steve Stricker (23), $22,560	71-77-72-75–295
a-Patrick Cantlay, $0	71-78-74-72–295
Stewart Cink (20), $19,960	71-75-81-69–296
Robert Karlsson (20), $19,960	74-74-77-71–296
Charl Schwartzel (20), $19,960	72-75-75-74–296
David Toms (20), $19,960	73-73-75-75–296
Scott Verplank (17), $18,880	73-75-75-74–297
a-Hideki Matsuyama, $0	71-74-72-80–297
Miguel A. Jimenez, $18,560	69-72-76-81–298
Martin Laird (13), $18,240	76-72-74-77–299
Edoardo Molinari, $18,240	75-74-76-74–299
Y.E. Yang (13), $18,240	73-70-75-81–299
Trevor Immelman (11), $17,920	78-71-76-76–301
Gonzalo Fdez-Castano, $17,760	74-75-76-77–302
a-Kelly Kraft, $0	74-75-77-80–306

a-amateur
x-won on second playoff hole

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NMASA

From Page 27

complex and according to the former, there was a concession that NMASA is responsible for the disputed facility and DCCA has no authority on running the affairs of NMASA. Last week, Faisao sent a letter to White, saying "effective immediately, all official matters dealing with NMASA administration and operation will now require my concurrence or approval."

Meanwhile, the remaining $207,400 in the proposed budget will cover other operational expenses; $2,000 for communications, $40,000 for repairs and maintenance, $42,000 for cleaning services, $36,000 for grounds maintenance, $72,000 for utilities, $9,000 for vehicles, and $6,000 for equipment.

The NMASA budget was not included in the one presented at the Legislature on March 30, but the former submitted one to Inos and will also give copies to lawmakers.

"We have provided copies to the lieutenant governor and intend to work with the Legislature to have it included in the budget which they enact," White said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

The budget for fiscal year 2013 must be approved by September this year.

Senior Jets II notches pair of wins

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The Rep. Antonio Sablan-Eliceo D. Cabrera Hunters' Steven Cabrera, seen here in a file photo, batted 4-for-5 with six RBIs and four runs against the DPS Dare Program Enforcers in their Senior Division matchup held last April 1 at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The second-ranked Juan Santiago Jets II bagged a pair of wins in last week's Saipan Little League Senior Division pairings held at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Balfield.

Jets II outlasted the IT&E Fielders, 11-9, last Tuesday after run-ruling the Natibu Sports Association Tanapag Falcons, 14-4, on April 1.

The Rep. Antonio Sablan-Eliceo D. Cabrera Hunters, meanwhile, were no joke and rampaged the DPS Dare Program Enforcers, 24-3, on April Fool's as well.

In Major Division action held at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield, the Natibu Tanapag Braves snuck past McDonald's, 8-7, last Tuesday. Attorney Robert T. Torres Law Offices' Kagman Little Legals, for their part, downed the San Vicente A's, 11-2, on April 1.

SENIOR DIVISION
Jets II 11, Fielders 9

Jets II managed a 5-3 lead after two frames with four runs in the top of the second off four walks, an error, and a sacrifice fly by Jeremy Lizama.

Jets II's Kyle Hocog doubled his way on in the third and was driven home by Francisco Palacios to start the third, but the Fielders roared back to within a run in the bottom frame with an RBI poke by Jonathan Rangamar and an RBI double by Khobby Kaipat.

The count shifted to 8-5 after four innings as Jets II's Lizama stole home.

Jets II then jumped ahead, 10-5, in the top of the fifth off wild pitches, but the Fielders' Poland Masaharu obliged with a three-RBI inside-the-park home run in the bottom frame.

Jets II's Esiah Cruz belted an RBI triple in the top of the sixth and the Jets II defense held its rivals to just one run in the final stand.

Jets II 14, Falcons 4

Jets II established a 4-0 lead in the first inning off a pair of two RBI singles by Shane Deleon Guerrero and Luwan Reyes.

Jets II added three more runs in the second inning as Cruz belted two-RBI doubles and scored off an error.

They then put up two more in the fourth before the Falcons finally hit the board with four runs in the top of the fifth off a balk, two hits, and some errors. Frankie Lieto bagged an RBI single.

Jets II got two runs back in the bottom frame and kept the Falcons perched in the top half of the sixth before working around the two runs needed for the early decision. Hocog bashed an RBI single and won the game off a wild pitch.

Hunters 24, Enforcers 3

Hunters increased a modest 3-1 edge from the opening frame into an 11-2 margin after three innings with three runs in the second off four hits and another five runs in the third from a pair of RBI doubles by Jonah Reyes and Steven Cabrera mixed in with some sketchy pitching.

The Enforcers could only come up with a run in the first and second innings, while the Hunters leaped even further ahead, 19-3, come the fourth frame.

Still the Hunters were not done and threw five more runs on top in the fifth inning before clocking out early. Steven Cabrera capped off fine day at the plate with a two-RBI triple.

MAJOR DIVISION
Braves 8, McDonald's 7

McDonald's held an early 4-3 edge after the opening frame off two hits and some wild pitching. Spence Dickenson busted a two-RBI single.

The Braves tied it at 4-all in the second inning and grinded out a 6-5 lead heading into the fifth where they added two more runs off some more wild throws for an 8-6 edge with three outs to go.

McDonald's quickly pulled within a run off a fielder's choice by Luis Cepeda. However, the match abruptly ended as the tying run, Cepeda, made a break for home and was ruled out for failing to touch the plate

Little Legals 11, A's 2

Little Legals took the lead, 4-0, in the top of the first inning off five hits. Magdalena Maratita cleared the bases with a two-RBI double and was driven home by

See SENIOR on Page 26

Paire, Shirley's win; MPU settles for draws

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United's Rachel Masga dives for the ball and collides with an Independents defender during Week 2 of the NMIFA women's league at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Shirley's FC and PaireFC topped separate foes, while MP United FC had back-to-back draws in the continuation of regular season games in the 2012 NMIFA Women's Spring League.

Shirley's shut out Tan Holdings FC on March 30 at the Oleai Sports Complex Field, 7-0, to remain unbeaten in the six-team field, while Paire edged Matansa on March 31 at the Hopwood Junior High School Field, 2-1, for its second win in as many games. MP United also played at the Hopwood pitch on March 31 and settled for a scoreless draw against Independents and then the former dueled Tan Holdings FC in another scoreless match last Friday at the Oleai field.

In the Tan Holdings FC-Shirley's tiff, the former got two early goals to set the tone in the lopsided game. Lalaine Pagarao scored just six minutes into the game and Melody Johnson made it a 2-0 count four minutes later. Pagarao then got her second goal in the 26th minute for Shirley's 3-0 halftime advantage.

Tan Holdings defenders failed to neutralize Pagarao in the second half, as the Shirley's FC strike nailed two more goals, making her third in the 50th minute and her fourth in the 64th. Johnson also scored in the second half, nine minutes before the game wrapped up, while Angie Ito broke into the scoreboard in the last minute of the one-sided match.

In the Paire-Matansa match, details were unavailable at press time, but the winning squad scored one goal each in the first and second half, while Matansa nailed its lone goal in the final 45 minutes of play.

Matansa has yet to win this season and was scheduled to face Shirley' FC last Saturday in the first game at the Hopwood pitch. In the second match, Paire was set to duel Independents FC. Results of neither match were unavailable at press time.

Meanwhile, action in Week 4 of the women's league will start this Friday with Independents takings on Tan Holdings at 7:15pm at the Oleai pitch, Matansa meeting MP United at 8:30am, and Paire challenging Shirley's at 10:30am this Saturday. Both Saturday games will be played at the Hopwood pitch.

NMASA proposes $486,665 budget

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association is proposing a $486,665 budget for fiscal year 2013 to operate the Oleai Sports Complex and provide assistance to various sports federations competing in off-island tournaments.

A large chunk of the budget proposal—$150,000—will be used to fund off-island competitions.

"The figure budgeted for travel principally consists of funds for off-island sports travel. At a hearing at the Legislature earlier this year, NMASA was asked to take over the function of allocating funds for this purpose, so that the Legislature could avoid the necessity of dealing with, and possibly appropriating funds for, off-island travel by a large number of groups each year," NMASA stated in a letter justifying the proposed budget.

For the past years, Team CNMI has been requesting financial assistance from the government through the Legislature every time it competes in regional events, such as the Micronesian Games, Pacific Games, and the Mini Games. Last year, due to budget cuts, Team CNMI failed to get any penny from the government's coffers, forcing the Commonwealth's athletes to shell out funds from their own pockets and request aid from the private sector. In 2010, during the Micronesian Games in Palau, Team CNMI received $60,000 financial assistance from the government after the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation made a re-appropriation from unobligated/lapsed funds.

"Once these funds ($150,000) are appropriated, the Legislature would no longer have to deal with those requests, and NMASA would be responsible for receiving and deciding upon requests for off-island travel expenses," NMASA added.

$100K for personnel salaries

Under the proposed budget, NMASA will allocate $100,029 for salaries of four employees.

The NMASA executive director will get $40,000, which is also the current salary of the head of the Division of Sports and Recreation. The remaining funds will be for three staff members and the total cost for personnel wages is $129,265 (including SS, medicare, retirement, and WCC contributions, life insurance, and paid leaves).

For the past several years, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs through the Division of Sports and Recreation is managing the sports complex and has one director and four staff members in charge of the operation of the facilities in Oleai.

White

Under the proposed budget submitted by DCCA last month, personnel salaries for the Division of Sports and Recreation total to $107,025 and $8,544 for other expenses.

With NMASA asserting its claim over the maintenance and operation of the contested sports complex through Public Law 4-66, the Division of Sports and Recreation director and staff positions will cease to exist.

"We will have to sit down with the DCCA secretary (Melvin Faisao) for the transition plan," NMASA president Michael White told the group's members during their monthly meeting last Thursday, a day after he met with Faisao, a representative from the Attorney General's Office, and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

White met with the three officials to discuss which group is mandated by CNMI laws to take care of the sports

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Avila's homer gives Tigers win over Red Sox

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Sports

Knicks top Bulls in Rose's return

PAGE 24

Watson wins Masters playoff over Oosthuizen

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER

The rarest shot in golf can happen any time Bubba Watson has a golf club in hands.

Watson was so deep in the woods late Sunday afternoon that he couldn't even see where he was going. With his golf ball nestled on a bed of pine needles, he hit a gap wedge that shot out toward the fairway and hooked some 40 yards and onto the elevated green.

Nothing less than the Masters was riding on the outcome. Nothing else would do except for a page right out of "Bubba golf."

And on a thrill-a-minute Sunday at Augusta National, where Louis Oosthuizen of South Africa made only the fourth double eagle in the 76-year history of this major, it made Watson a Masters champion.

"I've never had a dream go this far, so I can't really say it's a dream come true," Watson said. "I don't even know what happened on the back nine. ... Nervous on every shot, every putt. Went into a playoff. I got in these trees and hit a crazy shot that I saw in my head, and somehow I'm

See **WATSON** on **Page 26**

Bubba Watson hugs his mother Mollie after winning the Masters golf tournament following a sudden death playoff on the 10th hole Sunday, April 8, 2012, in Augusta, Ga. AP

Louis Oosthuizen, of South Africa, reacts after missing a birdie putt on the 18th green during the fourth round of the Masters golf tournament Sunday, April 8, 2012, in Augusta, Ga. AP

Oosthuizen has to settle for albatross at Masters

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—Instead of leaving with the green jacket, Louis Oosthuizen will have to settle for an albatross.

Outdone in a playoff by perhaps the only shot more spectacular than his double eagle, Oosthuizen came up short to Bubba Watson at the Masters on Sunday night. Unable to see the flag, Watson managed to hook a wedge off the pine needles to 10 feet while the South African couldn't get up and down from in front of the green.

"It's fine," Oosthuizen said. "He hit an unbelievable shot there. I played well. This is not one where I felt like I played badly. Great stuff to him, he deserves it."

Though Oosthuizen had already won a major, he would not have been anyone's pick at the beginning of the week. His only victories since the 2010 British Open are the last two African Opens, and being a quiet, modest man who is happy on his farm, he tends to get overlooked in a sport where Tiger Woods, Rory McIlroy, and Phil Mickelson rock-star status.

But Oosthuizen has perhaps the purest swing in the game, and he is nearly impossible to fluster. When he won the claret jug at St. Andrews, he took a four-shot lead into the final round and practically breezed to the finish.

So while everyone else was measuring Phil Mickelson for his fourth green jacket, defending champion Charl Schwartzel said there was someone else who was worth watching.

"I think he's playing the best out of everyone up there," Schwartzel said, referring to his friend and countryman, whom he's known since their days of junior golf in South Africa. "He's hot right now. When he's playing like this, he's unstoppable."

Oosthuizen wasted little time rewarding his friend's faith in him.

In the fairway on No. 2, from 253 yards out, he blasted a 4-iron onto the front, than watched it roll from the front of the green to the back and into the hole. Oosthuizen raised both hands in the air and high-fived his caddie as fans let out a roar that shook the Georgia pines all the way to Amen Corner.

"I knew if I get it right, it's going to feed toward the hole," he said. "But never thought it would go in."

It was the most famous albatross at Augusta since the one Gene Sarazen knocked in on No. 15 en route to a playoff victory in 1935 - known as the shot that put the Masters on the map.

Oosthuizen sauntered to the cup and plucked the ball out. But instead of saving it for a glass case back home, he tossed it to a fan.

"When something like that happens early in your round, you think that this is it," Oosthuizen said. "So it was tough. It was tough the next five holes to just get my head around it and just play the course."

Oosthuizen's smooth, sweet swing held up to the pressure. The only problem was, it takes a little flair to wear a green jacket.

He made only two more birdies the rest of the day—both on par-5s, which may as well be pars for the way the long holes play at Augusta National. Watson, meanwhile, made four straight birdies on the back nine to join Oosthuizen atop the leaderboard.

Forced into a playoff when neither could make a birdie on 18, Oosthuizen headed toward the putting green after signing his card only to find it had been

See **OOSTHUIZEN** on **Page 26**